

SITREP

VOLUME 29 ISSUE 2 NOVEMBER 2017

LINK FOREVER THOSE WHO SERVED TOGETHER

NEWSLETTER OF THE

FORCE RECON



ASSOCIATION
U.S. MARINE CORPS

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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 MESSAGE – Post Reunion: 2017

I want to begin by saluting our active duty warriors in the Reconnaissance Community who have recently returned from deployment. Your FRA Brothers and Sisters stand ready to provide our ongoing support...and to our Brother and Sisters still engaged in the fight, we continue to send our thoughts and prayers for your safe return. Semper Fidelis!

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 FRA REUNION AFTER ACTION REPORT: THANK YOU!!!!!!!

I want to thank all those who helped make the 2017 FRA Reunion a successful and memorable experience for all who were able to attend.

Regrettably, Hurricanes Harvey and Irma caused havoc for many of our members and resulted in a number of cancellations to the reunion. Our thoughts and prayers go out to all who suffered damage and loss from these storms.

Additionally, I want to recognize Dick Ashton, Dave and Tina Jarvis, and Paul Clifford for their active support and leadership in coordinating many of the reunion activities. They are the reason we were able to enjoy a tour of HMX-1; a tour (and lunch) of the Raids and Recon Detachment, and a successful memorial dinner and recognition of our Recon Team Leaders and Instructor of the Year. Behind the scenes, Pat Zuber assisted with logistical support and with gathering information necessary to recognize our fallen Brothers.

Finally, I must acknowledge the terrific staff of professionals from MCB Quantico and the National Museum of the Marine Corps. Mr. John Deberry, Command Visit Coordinator; Ms. Almaz Dawson, General Manager of the Crossroads Inn; Ms. Aicha DeJesus, Special Events & Catering Manager, and Mr. Barry Colossard, Colonel, USMC (ret), and his associates who graciously hosted our tour of the Marine Museum. Many of our attending members commented on how hospitable and professional the services were from you all! It truly was a team effort this year, and I am grateful for the excellent support from these members and hosts. Next year, we return to the West coast for FRA 2018!



More photos from the 2017 Reunion will be posted on our website: www.forcerecon.com.

2017 FRA Scholarship Report

The FRA Board of Directors and FRA Membership approved 21 FRA Scholarships for 2017 and awarded a total of \$24,750 to the grantees. Scholarship awards will be mailed after October 1, 2017. Congratulations to our scholarship recipients and best wishes for your continued academic achievement.

Additionally, I am pleased to announce that our charity auction this year yielded over \$4,000 for our scholarship and assistance funds. As most of you know, we presently have two sources of funding for our charities: first are the specific gifts of our members, and second are the generous donations of merchandise from our corporate sponsors and members. **This year, we are very grateful to ESS, MagPul, Leupold-Stevens, GLOCK, LBT, Inc.; Smith & Wesson, Streamlight, and Trijicon for their significant contributions.** I encourage our members to extend their patronage to these fine companies who continue to support our charities. Thank you to all who donated and to all who participated!

For those interested in the FRA Scholarship Program, the full FRA Scholarship Application package is available on the FRA website at www.forcerecon.com.

2017 Executive Board Elections

The following members were elected to the FRA Board for the 2018-2019 term:

President: Al Sniadecki

Vice President: Paul Clifford

Secretary: Vacant (Mr. Clifford acting)

Treasurer: Vacant (Mr. Green acting)

Executive Director: David Jarvis

If you are interested in filling one of the vacant officer positions, please contact me and I will send you the SOP (job requirements) for that position. All FRA members “in good standing” are eligible to run for any of the open positions.

A Message from your Executive Director



Executive Director's Report

Good day members of the Association, family and friends. I would like to start by thanking the Board of Directors and our members in attendance of the 2017 reunion, for electing me as your new Executive Director.

For those who may not know me, I recently retired from 1st Reconnaissance Battalion and been an active member on the Board of Directors for about the last six years. It's an honor to continue to support the organization. As you all may be fully aware, Al Sniadecki has filled his role as President and as Executive Director for the past two years. As we go forward, I will be working hand in hand with Mr. Sniadecki to ensure a solid transition and thorough turnover is conducted.

My wife Tina and I had an outstanding time during our recent reunion! It was awesome to be amongst the world's finest and to link up with so many great folks. A special shout out to our Active Duty members for taking the time out of their busy schedules to be in attendance. I'd like to thank all those who supported this year's reunion. The contribution of time and effort should not go unnoticed and is truly appreciated. Finally, I'd like to thank those members who contributed personal items to be auctioned off, in order to raise money for our charity funds.

As proposed and approved by the membership, **our next reunion will be held in the San Diego/Camp Pendleton Region.** Recon 2018 dates are 16-19 May 2018. The purpose of the shift is to align with the 10th Annual Reconnaissance Challenge. This grueling event brings out our best Reconnaissance Men from all over the community. It will be a real treat to see them in action representing our fallen throughout the 25-mile challenge. Expect to receive your Recon 2018 Registration Form, via mail, early January 2018, but will also be available on the FRA Website. For your convenience, and for planning purposes, the Recon 2018 Event Schedule is attached.

In closing I'd like to share with you our 2017 Team Leaders/Instructor of the Year Recipients.

1st Force Recon Company
Staff Sergeant Kermit R. Hatfield

2nd Force Recon Company
Staff Sergeant Jordan W. Leach

Force Recon Co, III MEF
Staff Sergeant Grady A. Harmon

3d Force Recon Co, 4th MARDIV
Staff Sergeant Andrew Rodriguez Jr.

Recon Training Company
Instructor of the Year
Staff Sergeant Anthony M. Battles

Respectfully,
MSgt Dave Jarvis USMC (Ret)
Executive Director

**EVENT SCHEDULE****Recon 2018**

San Diego, CA
May 16-19 2018

Keep This Page For Reference

Make Your Room Reservations NOW!

Holiday Inn San Diego Bayside | **Phone:** 800 662-8899 | **Discount Code** – FRA | **Cut-off Date** – 25 APR 2018

Wednesday – May 16, 2018, Holiday Inn Bayside Hospitality Suite

1300 - 1700 Reunion Check-In

(Note: Registration packets will include Hold Harmless Agreements and Recon Challenge Map)

1800 - 1900 Members Welcome Brief and Schedule Overview

Thursday – May 17, 2018, 52 Area, Camp Pendleton

TBD - 1800 Recon Challenge Note: There will be two am departures from Holiday Inn, TBD
(Note: Lunch and refreshments will be available at the Recon Challenge site.)

1800 - TBD Recon Challenge Awards Ceremony.

(Note: There will be two pm departures from ceremony site, TBD)

Friday – May 18, 2018, Holiday Inn Bayside Hospitality Suite

0900 - 1030 FRA Board Meeting

1100 - 1230 General Membership Meeting and Luncheon

1300 - 1630 MCRD San Diego Museum Tour, Van will depart from Holiday Inn @ 1300

Saturday – May 19, 2018, Holiday Inn Bayside Hospitality Suite

1000 - 1200 FRA Charities Auction

(ALL MEMBERS ARE ENCOURAGED TO PROVIDE CHARITY AUCTION ITEMS)

1700 – 1800 Cocktail Hour, Holiday Inn Ballroom

1800 - 2230 Formal Memorial Banquet & Dancing, Holiday Inn Ballroom

(NOTE: Special Dietary requirements for dinner should be requested NO LATER THAN the day before the banquet.)

Any Changes to the schedule above will be posted in the hospitality room.

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



Since our last FRA reunion, our community bid farewell to two legendary Recon Marines and founding members of the Force Recon Association.

On December 21, 2016 CWO4 James F. Doner USMC (ret) passed away at his home in Tuscon, Arizona. Jim served two tours with Force Recon in Vietnam and went on to become a Naval Aviator and served as an AO (and Instructor) with the Marine Air Wing until his retirement. I know many of us will remember Jim both for his wit and his unfailing integrity.

On August 7, 2017, Colonel Bruce F. Meyers USMC (ret) passed away at his residence in Issaquah, Washington. Col Meyers served as the very first commanding officer of a Marine Force Recon unit (First Force Reconnaissance Company) and he commanded the 26th Marines at Khe Sanh, during the Tet offensive in 1968. Bruce retired from the Marines in 1970 and practiced law in his native state of Washington for many years. He was an accomplished pilot and author, having written four books and numerous articles.

Both Jim and Bruce were active founding members of the FRA and both served in various Board positions for many years.

To them and to all of our fallen Recon warriors, we send our love and condolences to their families and wish our departed Brothers "...Fair winds and following seas"!



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: 2018

Al Sniadecki
President

Paul Clifford
Vice President

Vacant - Paul Clifford acting
Secretary

Billy Branch
Director

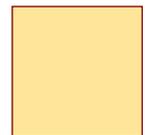
Lance Woodburn
Director

Vacant - Halsey Green acting
Treasurer

John Baker
Director

Patrick Zuber
Director

David Jarvis
Executive Director



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CITY, STATE, 00000
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