

SITREP

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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. You can visit our web site and pay online with PayPal.
- 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.
- 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 – October: 2019

As we approach the 244th Birthday of our beloved Marine Corps, I want to extend a hearty Happy Birthday to all of our Marine Brothers and Sisters, as well as our Navy Corpsmen (who are the very reason some of us are still here to celebrate this day). I hope each of you will have the opportunity to celebrate our Birthday with your fellow Marines, Corpsmen and families.

This year has produced a couple of 'firsts' for our organization. As many of you know, we had a great reunion planned for Camp Lejeune in September, and our host unit, 2nd Recon Bn was ready to host a full day experience for all attendees. Regrettably, the weather intervened compliments of Hurricane Dorian, and due to safety considerations, all base activities had to be cancelled for the week we had planned. Team Jarvis (Dave and Tina) who invested 6+ months of planning and negotiations for the event were on site and fully ready to launch Reunion 2019, but it was not to be. I believe the lesson learned was to plan our reunions on the East Coast earlier in the year and hopefully avoid bad weather. I am extremely grateful to Dave and Tina, as well as the command staff and SNCO's from 2nd Recon Bn who planned our activities, and the handful of members and their families who braved the storm and showed up anyway. I affectionately nicknamed the members who showed up, the "Dorian Diehards"!

Another 'first' directly affecting our charities involved our fundraising efforts to support the Baker Recon Challenge and our sister charity, the Force Reconnaissance Foundation (501c3). We hosted several events, held auctions, sold t-shirts and challenge coins, and when the mission was accomplished, all the bills paid, and Mount Baker conquered by members of Bravo Co, 1st Recon Bn (circa 2010) we had raised enough money to cover all mission expenses and still contribute almost \$40,000 to the Force Recon Foundation! Thank you to all the members, family, friends and organizations whose donations and support contributed to our success!

Finally, we successfully launched an online payment option for our members via PayPal that has proved to be a very popular option for many of our members. Approximately 40% of our dues payments for this year were made using the PayPal option. Thanks again to our CommChief, Steve Luebbert, for making this happen!

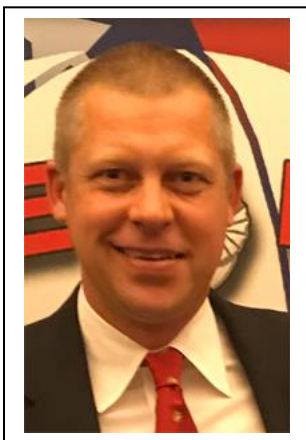
Finally, we convey our continued gratitude and a special "welcome home" to all of our Reconnaissance Marines, MARSOC Marines and Corpsmen returning from deployments overseas. To our Brothers and Sisters still engaged in the fight,

we offer our prayers and best wishes for your safe return to your families and loved ones.

Please let us know if you have moved, changed email addresses, got a new telephone number etc. We try very hard to maintain good contact information on all of our members, but if you fail to let us know of a change in your HQ, we have no way of finding you! You can email any new information to Commchief@forcerecon.com, or to alsniadecki@netzero.net, or to jarvisda77@gmail.com. We will see to it that your new contact information gets into our database. Also, you can fill out the "OPERATION DATA CLEANUP" sheet included in this newsletter and mail it in.

Please remember that without your support and participation, there would not be a Force Recon Association. Semper Fidelis!

Al Sniadecki
President



A Message from your Executive Director

Good day Members, Family and Friends of the Force Recon Association! This past year was busy for our Association and our Foundation. We held two fundraisers that took place in Las Vegas, Nevada and Dallas, Texas; these events supported our Foundation and the Mt. Baker Recon Challenge Team. A huge thanks to Al Sniadecki and Jim McGaughey for spearheading these events, also to John Greenway who helped us with the formalities of fundraising. We thank all the supporters who assisted in raising nearly \$40k for our charity funds! Congratulations to the Baker Recon Challenge Team for executing the five-day

climb to the top of Mt. Baker and completing the mission! A preview of the story can be found at: <https://youtube/Q6wQbB2IT00>

As Al Sniadecki stated in his report, we faced an unpredictable hurricane path that affected our 2019 FRA Reunion in September at Camp Lejeune, North Carolina. Hurricane Dorian caused most of the base support establishments to close down at the last minute resulting in most of our planned activities being cancelled. Nevertheless, we made the most of it with 30, or so, members and their spouses that were able to join us. Spending time in the hospitality suite and sharing experiences going back to the Korean War was truly a memorable time! Another positive outcome of our abbreviated reunion was that we were able to pull off our annual auction and raised over \$5,500 for our charities! Pictures of the 2019 FRA Reunion can be found on our website: www.forcerecon.com

We will kick off our 2020 activities by attending the Annual SHOT Show in Las Vegas. As many of you know, we receive the majority of our auction items from this event. This is also a great time to say thanks to our loyal sponsors and supporters.

Also, the planning and preparation for our 2020 FRA Reunion has begun! **Mark your calendars**, as our reunion dates are already set for April 29th through May 2, 2020, in San Diego, California (see attachment for reunion schedule). Those of you who attended our 2018 FRA Reunion, know that it was a real treat to

see our active duty and reserve Reconnaissance Marines compete in the annual Recon Challenge. This year, the 12th Annual Recon Challenge will take place aboard Camp Pendleton, California on April 30, 2020. The two-man Recon Teams will maneuver throughout a 25 mile course carrying a 50lb ruck, and banner/dog tags representing our Fallen. Additionally, Chris May (MGySgt, Ret), AKA 'Brother Recon', will be unveiling the Fallen Warrior Memorial (Bronze Statue) during the awards ceremony at Reconnaissance Training Company to Honor ALL of our Fallen Brothers. For over six years, Chris has been diligently fundraising to support this Memorial and we look forward to celebrating its unveiling (see attachment, Brother Recon FWM). If you are in the area, please stop by to support this great event! More information can be found at: trngcmd.marines.mil

The Holiday Inn Bayside San Diego has provided the below information, so you can make your hotel reservations now: Our event is scheduled from April 29, 2020 to May 3, 2020. The group code is **FRA** and group rates are valid for booking through March 28, 2020. Click here [Force Recon Association Room Reservations](#) to proceed directly to the reservation desk. The group rate is available for three days pre and post event, based on room availability, via the provided link or contact hotel reservations directly at Holiday Inn San Diego Bayside. Call (619) 224-3621, ask for reservations (Ext: 701) or call toll free (in USA only) (800) 662-8899.

Reunion registrations will be emailed and posted on our website, mid January 2020.

I have added several SitRep links from our Active/Reserve units and from Reconnaissance Training Company. As you can see by viewing these, the Men are continuously engaged with high risk training and ready to execute their mission when called upon.

Lastly, I would like to acknowledge our **2019 Active/Reserve Team Leaders of the Year:**

SSgt David Johnsn: 1st Reconnaissance Bataillon, 1st MARDIV
Sgt Eric Dipitrantnio: 2nd Force Reconnaissance Company, II MEF
SSgt Dustin Thurmond: Force Reconnaissance Company, III MEF
SSgt Keith Moss: 3rd Force Reconnaissance Company, 4th MARDIV

As always if, any of you have any questions, comments or concerns please feel free to reach out to me at any time. I look forward to seeing many of you at our next reunion!

Semper Fidelis,

Dave Jarvis
Executive Director
Force Recon Association
Jarvisda77@gmail.com
H: 208-245-0890
C: 760-716-3713



Brother Recon Fallen Warrior Memorial

Brother Recon has been engaged in creating a Fallen Warrior Memorial for the last 6 years and we are now in the final stage and able to complete this endeavor. We are now raising funds for the final casting that will be unveiled at the 2020 Annual Recon Challenge at Camp Pendleton CA.

After the death of SSgt Caleb Medley in a parachuting accident in Perris California in 2013, I found myself struggling to deal with the loss of one of my Marines at home. The issue unlike overseas, is the fact that it happened in our own back yard here at home and I could not leave this event behind like I had done for years overseas. My coping mechanism for this event became the creation of Brother Recon.

Over the last 6 years we have supported the

Reconnaissance community, placed a memorial at Sky Dive Perris of SSgt Medley and continually supported the Annual Recon Challenge with funds raised from the sale of our products but our biggest initiative grew to become the Fallen Warrior Memorial that will be placed at the Reconnaissance Training Center at Camp Pendleton Ca.

This initiative has become a part of my life and I promised Caleb's mother that I would complete this memorial no matter what. Brother Recon has no staff, partners, or employees it's just me and my wife Kathy. We have spent the last 6 years building our product line and investing everything we make back into the business or the Reconnaissance Community and we are finally at the point to bring this memorial to life, but we need everyone's help. The sculpture is currently in the molding and digitization process and will be ready for the final production soon. We are asking that everyone help share this message with friends, family, and Contacts and donate if you can.

The memorial is a 7-foot bronze sculpture casted after SSgt Caleb Medley with the help of Mark Rawson, one of Caleb's best friends.



This Memorial will represent all our fallen Reconnaissance Marines and SARC Corpsman that have given their lives for this great nation and the Reconnaissance Community.

So far this year we have raised \$26,400 of the \$45,000 required to finish the project.

We have sent John Phelps the artist that has been working with us since the beginning \$46,205 to date. We have another \$3,195 in the fund giving us a total of \$49,400.

Below is the link to my fundraiser and contact information for John Phelps.

John Phelps PO BOX 2322 Cody Wy 82414

307-690-0029

jphelps@wyoming.com

https://reconfoundation.networkforgood.com/projects/58119-chris-may-s-fundraiser?fbclid=IwAR2OZwr521yjlM0MF2pUo_oQrcib_JgutgsDaj4WzdXyikrSu9WImSY1ZpI



**2020 FRA Reunion
29 Apr – 2 May 2020
San Diego, CA
Event Schedule**

Wednesday – April 29, 2020, Holiday Inn Bayside, California Room (1st Floor)

- 1300 - 1700** Reunion Check-In
(Registration packets will include schedule of events, name badges, Hold Harmless Agreement and Recon Challenge Map)
- 1930 - 2000** Members Welcome Brief and Schedule Overview

Thursday – April 30, 2020, 52 Area, Camp Pendleton

- 0300 - 1800** Recon Challenge Note: There will be two am departures from Holiday Inn, TBD
(Lunch and refreshments will be available at the Recon Challenge site.)
- 1800 – TBD** Recon Challenge Awards Ceremony and unveiling of the Fallen Warrior Memorial, Bronze Statue (There will be two pm departures from ceremony site, TBD)

Friday – May 1, 2020, Holiday Inn Bayside/Camp Talega/Camp Pendleton

- 0900 - 1030** FRA Board Meeting, Bayside Bar (1st Floor)
- 1100 - 1230** General Membership Meeting and Luncheon, California Room (1st Floor)
- 1500 - 2300** Warrior Night, Camp Talega, Camp Pendleton. Transportation will depart from Holiday Inn Bayside

Saturday – May 2, 2020, Holiday Inn Bayside

- 0900 - 1200** FRA Charities Auction, California Room (1st Floor)
(ALL MEMBERS ARE ENCOURAGED TO PROVIDE CHARITY AUCTION ITEMS)
- 1700 - 1800** Cocktail Hour, Ball Room
- 1800 - 2230** Formal Memorial Banquet & Dancing, Main Ball Room
(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.

2019 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



Rosemary Sharon Mobley, spouse of Ado Mobley Jr. , FRA# 2177

Died 11 FRB 2019

1st Lt James Eugene (Jim) Dunning, USMC (ret), FRA# 267

Died 16 FEB 2019

LCpl Jerry L. (Stretch) Turner, FRA# 2699

Died 30 MAR 2019

Mrs. Lorrie Kowalski, Spouse of Joe Kowalski, FRA# 2536

Died 20 MAY 2019



You Will Be Missed and Never Forgotten.



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

**FRA Memorabilia:
I Need It Now Trophies**
<https://ineeditnowtrophies.co/>

**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: 2018-2020

Al Sniadecki
President

Paul Clifford
Vice President

David Pope
Secretary

James McGaughey III
Treasurer

David Jarvis
Executive Director

Steve Luebbert
Communications Chief

Collin Barry
Director

Billy Branch
Director

Cody Carroll
Director

Cory Paskvan
Director

Patrick Zuber
Director



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