

# SITREP

## FORCE RECON ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

### U.S. MARINE CORPS

01 January 2003  
Volume 1, Issue 1

*“Link Forever Those Who Served Together”*

#### Special Interest Articles:

- RECON 2002 Arlington, VA
- Letter from your President.
- Letter from our Ladies.
- RECON 2003 Hawaii Update
- RECON 2002 After Action Report.



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## RECON 2002 Arlington, VA

The 23<sup>rd</sup> Anniversary meeting of the Force Recon Association (FRA) was held in August 21-25, 2002, in our Nation's Capitol region of Arlington, Virginia. The Quality Hotel Arlington was the established Harbor Site and fun was had by all visiting the various sites and attractions of Washington, DC.

The gathering of young and old was in keeping with the highest of traditions of our association, as attendance at the Ball Dinner topped 300. Our special thanks to the Raids and Recon Section of Marine Corps Systems Command (MCSC), Quantico, Va, who put on a recon capabilities exercise consisting of MC5 static line parachuting, helo

casting, combatant diving, Light Strike Craft (LSC) demonstrations, Riverrine Assault Craft (RAC) performance characteristics and a static display that spanned the entire paraloft.

We also send our thanks out to the men of 2d Force Recon Company for taking a break out of their platoon training aboard Quantico, to man the static display at the hotel and show us their high tech equipment.

Commandant Al Gray (Ret) and Lt Gen Bedard (Head of Plans, Policies & Operations, on behalf of the Commandant General Jones) and Mrs. Jones (the Commandant's Mother) were our guests of honor at our annual dinner. The MAGTF Special Operations

Section along with members of the MCSC (special thanks to GySgt Dave Grandin and Capt Randy Hoffman for the paddles & knot work. What artistry.), these men created two authentic reconditioned IBS paddles with dynamic knot work and a hand painted recon scenes to present the Generals for their vigilant and never ending support to our recon Marines.

It was one of our larger gatherings and our President vowed to leave no man behind as we continued to pack in recon Marines up to the last minutes of the dinner. If you missed this one, you missed a great night of "Espirit de Corps". But we know you were there in spirit!

### Big Thanks to the FBI aboard Quantico!

Everyone from FRA is extremely thankful to all those who hosted us while in the Washington DC area. The FBI allowed us access to their facility and gave us shooting tips with their

weapons wired up with simunitions, so we could get a taste of the old shooter feeling! It was a great event, and we are thankful to the folks who set that up for us. In these times of heightened

security, visits like these can be rare or non-existent, but in fine fashion, the FBI gave us a closer look at their training facilities and hosted us with honor. Thanks!





## Letter from your PRESIDENT

Members:

On behalf of the Executive Board and Board of Directors, Happy Holidays!

Recon 2002, Arlington Va., is behind us and from what I've heard was one of our largest attended reunions. We also welcomed a lot new members. I personally want to thank Wayne Pilny and his committee for all their hard work all year to put this great reunion together.

I'd like also to thank the Commandant of the Marine Corp, General Jones, for all that he has done for our association. I'd like to thank all those involved at the FBI range, the Marine Corp Museum, 8<sup>th</sup> and I Parade, Raids and Recon Demo who helped make our reunion so enjoyable. The Ladies Club did a great job manning registration and the "Hootch". Thanks a lot "Ladies".

Rick Scriven, Zodiac North America, our new corporate sponsor donated a three man rubber raft. It was a terrific raffle item. Thanks Rick for all you did for us. Hope to see you in Hawaii.

The Scholarship auction went well. As always it was successful with the help of John Baker. Thanks to all of you who donated items for the auction.

"Hootch" sales were almost \$10,000. Because of popular sizes and unexpected sales in DC we are working on a low inventory at present time. This created a lot of "back orders". Please be patient, you will get what you ordered as soon as possible.

We can reflect on 2002 and most would say we had a successful year. What makes us successful is our members and their dedicated work. As 2003 approaches we are looking for members to fill two jobs that are very important. MEMORIAL DISPLAY, Jim Isom, Past President donated the memorial display that is set up at most of the reunions.

Unfortunately, some names are not listed and need to be added to the display. If you're interested in helping to keep the display current please call me at 209-607-5227 or e-mail me at, [Sasser@starband.net](mailto:Sasser@starband.net) MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE, Our numbers have grown to almost 2800 active members and we need a committee of three to qualify new membership applications. If you are interested call or e-mail me.

Our 2003 Reunion dates are August 25-30, Marriott Hotel, Waikiki, Hawaii. Room rates are \$111.41 including tax. Joe Tablada, Ed McCourt and Sam

Moyer are the 2003 coordinators. They have a lot of exciting events planned. It is important that we start to get a head count of how many members and family/friends will be attending. Please contact our Comm Chief, Chuck Ascher or any Executive Board or Board Member as soon as possible. We need this information so we can plan events in Hawaii.

On behalf of the Executive Board and Board of Directors, THANKS TO EVERYONE WHO MADE 2002 A GREAT YEAR FOR OUR ORGANIZATION.

My very best to you and your families for this holiday season and the coming year!

GOD BLESS AMERICA!  
GOD BLESS THE UNITED STATES MARINE CORP!

I remain, Semper Fidelis,  
Dick Sasser

## Letter from our LADIES

HELLO LADIES;

IT WAS WONDERFUL SEEING EVERYONE IN WASHINGTON D.C. WHO CAN EVER FORGET THE UNUSUAL "RESTAURANT" AT THE HOTEL AND THAT CARDIOVASCULAR WORKOUT GETTING UP THAT HILL! WE ALSO ENJOYED THE GREAT TOURS THAT WERE SET UP, ESPECIALLY THE WHITE HOUSE TOUR AND LUNCH.

THANKS TO ALL FOR ANOTHER EXTREMELY SUCCESSFUL REUNION, WITH EXTRA THANKS FOR ALL THE HELP IN GETTING THE MEN'S "HOOTCH" ORGANIZED AND UP AND RUNNING – WHAT WOULD THEY DO WITHOUT US? ALSO, A SPECIAL THANK YOU TO PEGGY RUSSELL FOR ALL HER HELP IN ACTING AS NANCY PILNY'S SECOND HAND IN THE LADIES' HOSPITALITY ROOM.

OUR AUCTION WAS VERY SUCCESSFUL ALLOWING US AGAIN TO GIVE A \$1000 SCHOLARSHIP. JOAN BERRY OUTDID HERSELF AGAIN THIS YEAR. THE AFGHAN WAS EXCEPTIONAL AND WE ALL ENJOYED THE FACT THAT BRUCE MEYERS WON IT – AS IT SHOULD BE, AFTER HE BOUGHT \$50 OF OUR RAFFLE TICKETS THINKING THEY WERE FOR THEIR DINGY BEING RAFFLED. COME SEE US AGAIN NEXT YEAR BRUCE.

YOUR EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE WILL BE TURNING OVER THE REINS TO NEW OFFICERS NEXT YEAR. THE OFFICERS ELECTED WERE VICKI JANSEN (PRESIDENT), BETH RUBENFELD (VICE-PRESIDENT), ANITA TORRES (SECRETARY) AND NANCY TEAGUE (TREASURER). WE WISH THEM GOOD LUCK. YOUR CHOICES FOR NEW OFFICERS COULD NOT HAVE BEEN BETTER.

ALSO, DON'T FORGET WE HAVE A WEB PAGE. PLEASE CONTACT ANITA TORRES FOR INFORMATION REGARDING REGISTERING ON THE SITE.

WE FINALLY BECAME INCORPORATED AS OF OCTOBER 2002. A THANK YOU TO BILL RAMEY FOR PREPARING AND FILING OUR CORPORATION PAPERS AND TO BRUCE MEYERS FOR OBTAINING OUR EIN NUMBER – WE'RE LEGAL LADIES...

REGARDING THE REUNION IN HAWAII NEXT YEAR, WE ARE PROPOSING TO FOREGO THE SILENT AUCTION AS IT MIGHT BE TOO DIFFICULT TO BRING ITEMS TO HAWAII. WE WOULD LOVE THE MEMBERS' INPUT INTO ANY IDEAS FOR HAWAII. WE ARE THINKING ABOUT A RAFFLE FOR JOAN BERRY'S AFGHAN FOR THE SCHOLARSHIP FUND AND CONTRIBUTIONS FOR THE HOSPITALITY SUITE FOR COFFEE, DONUTS, ETC. WE'RE SURE ED MCCOURT WILL BRING US SOME MORE CHOCOLATE COVERED MACADAMIA NUTS. THANKS ED FOR THE CANDY AND COFFEE THIS YEAR IN D.C. LET US KNOW WHAT YOUR IDEAS ARE.

THANK YOU AGAIN FOR ANOTHER WONDERFUL REUNION. WE'RE LOOKING FORWARD TO SEEING ALL OF YOU IN HAWAII.

SEMPER FEM,

PAT SASSER, GEORGETT STUDNICKA, NANCY PILNY, IRENE RAMEY

## RECON 2003 Hawaii



*"Get an early start preparing for the next FRA gathering. Our next one is going to be held in Hawaii from 25-31 August 2003!"*

Get an early start preparing for the next FRA gathering. Our next one is going to be held in Hawaii from 25-31 August 2003! Your on site planning team made up of Sam Moyer, Ed McCourt and Jose Tablada have already identified the hotel. You can make reservation with Marriott Waikiki Beach Resort by calling Marriott at 1-800-228-9290 or call direct to 1-808-922-6611. Make sure you tell them your part of the Force Recon Association Reunion. The information coming in so far is that it will cost about \$100.00 per night without a parking pass and \$110.00 with parking (They are working on 20 Free parking passes so make arrangements with the team if needed). Taxes are about 11% on hotel rooms. This hotel is right on the beach and offers 2 pools, 2 restaurants and a lounge. They offer rooms for up to four people per room. There is a lounge for early check-ins if air arrival before the 1200 check-in time, free coffee or tea, color TV and a chiller or refrigerator with every room. This hotel is

comparable to hotels running at \$150.00 per night

The Hale Koa (Military Lodge) is \$90.00 a night and won't allow any non-retirees or active duty/reservist to stay in the hotel, so this is a real Hawaii deal!

The tentative schedule is as follows:

### Monday, August 25th 2003

0700 - 2200 CHECK IN

### Tuesday, August 26th

0600 - 1300 Golf Tourney MCBH Kaneohe Bay.

0600 - 1300 Weapons Shoot (TENTATIVE)

1600 - 2000 NAVATEK Dinner Cruise (Approx \$45.00)

### Wednesday, August 27th

1000 - 1400 Force Recon Demo/BBQ

1800 - 2000 Ladies Club Welcome Cocktail Party

### Thursday, August 28th

0600 - 1400 USS Arizona, SSN Bowfin, USS Missouri Tours.

1600 - 2200 Paradise Cove Luau (Approx \$40.00)

### Friday, August 29th

0730 - 0930 Executive Board Members Mtg

1030 - 2245 Polynesian Cultural Center.

### Saturday, August 30th

0700 - 0900 Run, Walk, or Crawl Race-Kapiolani Park

0700 - 0900 Board of Directors Mtg

1100 - 1330 General Membership Mtg

1200 - 1330 Ladies Club Luncheon.

1330 - 1600 Scholarship Auction

1730 - 1900 Cocktails  
1900 - TBD  
Banquet/Dancing

## From the FRA Secretary

**FORCE RECON ASSOCIATION  
U.S. MARINE CORPS**  
*"Link forever Those Who Served Together"*

**Meeting of the Board of Directors**

August 23, 2002  
Washington, D.C. (Arlington, VA)

**EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

Present: President	Dick Sasser, # 1795
Vice President	Joe Tablada, # 1745
Secretary	Bruce Meyers, # 0007
Treasurer	George Saitta, # 1007
President-Elect	Pat Teague, # 0038
Executive Director	Wayne Lingenfelter, # 0042
Absent: Past President	Bob Zwiener, # 0356

**Board of Directors**

Present: Nelson Donley, 0696  
    Hal Leach, #2333  
    Charles Buchholz, # 0127 #  
    Mark Tigh, # 0746  
    Bill Block, # 0028  
    Billy Branch, # 0025  
    Wes Johnson, # 1711  
    Elliot ("J.J.") Rubenfeld, # 1611  
    Leonard Torres, # 2040

Absent: Donald McNees, # 1311

1. **Quorum.** A quorum being present, President Dick Sasser called the meeting to order at 0805.
2. **Secretary's Report** A motion was made, seconded and passed that the reading of last year's minutes be waived and that they are approved as submitted.
3. **Scholarship Committee Report.** Mr. John Baker presented the Scholarship Committee Report (copy appended). Because of the general drop in the stock market of nearly \$ 3,000, the Scholarship Committee recommended award of \$ 4,000 in scholarships for this year (down from \$ 5,000 last year). The Women's Club also awarded the Donna Johnson Scholarship of \$ 1,000. The Scholarship Committee recommends the following awards for year 2002:

Ernie Defazio Scholarship Award - Mark Granen, U of FL, \$ 1,200  
Siegel/Houghton Scholarship Award, Rachel Torres, Stanford, \$ 1,000  
Sasser Scholarship Award, David Gross, Cornell, \$ 900  
SgtMaj. Maurice Jacques Scholarship Award, Capt. Edward Manning, Hunter College, NY, \$ 900  
Donna Johnson Scholarship Award, Sharon Gross, CalStateFresno, \$1,000

It was moved and seconded that the above scholarships be awarded.

**THE MOTION WAS APPROVED.**

4. **Treasurer's Report** Treasurer George Saitta presented the association Financial Report for the period October 1, 2001 through August 7, 2002. A copy of this report is appended. The Treasurer's report includes a Balance Sheet, a Profit and Loss Statement, a Transaction Detail by Account. Explanation was made on the consolidation of accounts following transfer from the former Executive Director. The financial transfers to and from the Women's Group was discussed and it was concluded that the FRA would assist the Women's Group in forming its own non-profit and getting their own EIN number to facilitate the accounting with the FRA's reconciliation for the IRS.

As of 30 June 2002, in summary, there was a total of \$ 51,336.30; fixed assets (2 computers, satellite dish etc, brought total of assets to \$ 64,637.56. Total liabilities were \$ 6,301.94. The Profit and Loss Statement showed ordinary income to be \$ 40,221.52 (the bulk of \$ 25,000 was income from dues); expenses are detailed (showing a loss of \$ 2,896 in market investments for the scholarship fund), with the expenses for Recon 2001 in Louisville being \$ 9,569.65. Total expenses were \$ 43,495.58, making net income showing a loss of \$ 3,274.06. The Transaction Sheet shows every expenditure by item since the new Executive Director took over.

**MEU Memorial funds** were discussed. There was \$ 40,373 donated. Of this, \$ 34,050.00 was deposited in a "College Bound Fund" for the children of the deceased Marines from the helo crash. Returned checks on these donations totaled \$ 655. There is a current balance of \$ 5,686.00 remaining in FRA accounts which will be transferred to a separate MEU fund as soon as practicable. (It must reach a certain amount before transfer. Donation checks are still being received for the MEU Fund. A separate new checking account will be opened by Wayne for future 15<sup>th</sup> MEU donations, thereby eliminating on-going donations having to be deposited in the FRA checking account.

**The Ladies' Club.** The FRA CPA, Ms. Billinski questioned the transaction with the Ladies' Club. After considerable discussion, it was agreed that the FRA would assist the Women's Club in obtaining an EIN number and registering their organization as a non-profit veteran's organization under IRS 501 (c) 19. Every effort will be made so that the Women's Club has its own EIN at which point the remaining \$ 2,173 will be transferred from FRA accounts back to the Women's Club. After a motion was made to clarify the fiscal inter-relationship between the FRA and the Women's Club, considerable discussion was held with strong continued support for the Women's Club. The Second to the motion was withdrawn and the majority had concluded in reading of past minutes there was no need for such a motion and it was concluded to clearly indicate the separate and independent position of the Women's Club.

**[Secretary note: "The Ladies Club" has now been incorporated in the State of California as a non-profit (501)(c) separate corporation and they now have their own EIN number from the IRS, thanks to FRA Mbrs.,attorneys Bill Ramey and Bruce Meyers with invaluable assistance from Irene Ramey, Nancy Pilny and Pat Sasser]**

**Post 2001 Reunion Checks.** Clarification was made by Treasurer George Saitta on the few checks written after October 1, 2001, which were in relation to the 2001 reunion costs.

A motion was made and seconded to accept the Treasurer's Report as presented.

**THE MOTION WAS APPROVED.**

Allen recommended a 4-day "Liquor Liability" policy for \$ 550 per year. In anticipation of these policies a modest charge for such insurance was included in this year's registration fee. After discussion, It was moved and seconded that the FRA insure its activities with a one-million dollar general liability policy and the four-day Liquor Liability policy (to cover the reunions).

**THE MOTION WAS APPROVED, UNANIMOUSLY.**

12. **Gary Lakas Incident.** Vice President Joe Tablada reported that he had received reports from other SpecOp contacts that the person who attended last year's 2001 Reunion in Louisville had never served in a Force Recon unit and was thus an impostor (or "wannabe"). For those in attendance at Louisville, "Gunnery Sergeant" Gary Lakas was wearing 3 silver stars, 2 bronze stars and 3 purple hearts. He had the audacity to have his picture with all of his ribbons and decorations taken with our Commandant, General Jim Jones. When this fraud and illegal impersonation was discovered, Lakas flew to Hawaii and confessed personally to Vice President Tablada. The Executive Committee determined that he had either failed to or presented forged documentation (DD214?) to the prior Executive Director Gary Marte. In that he had never qualified for membership, he was not considered a member. His name has been expunged from FRA records. Investigation is continuing for possible criminal charges. Allegedly, based upon his "membership" in FRA he was able to get a contract training SEALs and other SpecOp personnel. It would appear that if the other allegations against Lakas are substantiated, that any training contracts obtained would be under false premises and could be revoked. It appears that there are a lot of "Wannabes" out there. Persons who claim various special types of duty and appropriate decorations. The Board urges that complete documentation be required for all future members and that the application contain names of FRA members who were supposed to have served with such person in a Force Recon billet. Further that these sponsors be vetted to ensure that the prospective member is truly eligible. Remember Members: "If everyone could get into Force Recon, It would not be "Force Recon"!
13. **Request by Raiders to Join FRA.** President Dick Sasser advised that he had been contacted by a member of the Board of Directors of the Marine Raider Association exploring the possibility of joining up with the FRA. Dick Sasser and Nelson Donley then had a series of contacts with several of the Marine Raider Association. They presently have approximately 75 members who were actual Raiders, with some 1200 other "members" who are wives, children, family etc. of the surviving 75 actual Raiders. Nelson Donley requested a formal letter from the Raiders regarding their request. Nothing has been received to date. The undersigned Secretary, in doing research on a book on the history of amphib recon in WWII explained that research proved that the Raiders did some amphib recon but it was internal to the Raider organizations to which they belonged. Only a very small percentage could be considered to be doing missions comparable to Maj. Jim Jones' VAC Amphib Recon Battalion. After some discussion it was decided to do nothing about the Raider's request at this time until FRA gets some form of written request. At that point this "amalgamation" possibility will be reconsidered.
14. **United Warrior Survivor Foundation.** Pres. Dick Sasser reported that he had received a request from a SEAL team member asking FRA if it was interested in helping sponsor the newly formed "United Warrior Survivor Foundation" of Coronado, CA. They indicated that they are a private non-profit foundation just formed to helping families of fallen SpecOps personnel. Although they invited financial support from FRA, they asked for FRA support. The Board considered this and took a "wait and see" approach, until we know more about this organization which has dedicated itself to raising 1 million dollars per year for their financial aid projects.
15. **Nomination Committee Report.** Vice President Joe Tablada, serving in lieu of the Past President Bob Zwiener presented their recommendations for the five vacant spaces on the Board of Directors. There were no positions to fill on the Executive Committee (e.g. Pres., Pres-Elect, Vpres, Secy., or Treasurer). Board Members whose terms expire in 2002 (Donley, Leach, Tigh, McNeese) were polled to see if they wished to run again. The slate to be recommended to the full membership include: Nelson Donley; Mark Tigh, Charles Buchholz; Hal Leach; Dennis Boyle; Capt. Andy Christian; Fred Beaton; MGySgt Joe Settelin; Abbot Lighter; Jim McKee; Paul Burks Jim Isom and Allan Bierline. Finally, recommendations for people to run for the 10 spaces on the Disciplinary Board (as required by the By-Laws) were made. The General Membership will be polled at the regular business meeting for these positions. There are no known matters pending before the Disciplinary Board.
16. **Future Recon Reunion Locations.** Vice President Joe Tablada reported on the arrangements for **Recon 2003** to be held in Hawaii. The **Recon 2004** is scheduled to be in the middle of the country (versus east or west coasts). No specific location in the middle has been recommended.

17. **By-Laws Review.** Concern was expressed by the Executive Committee as to clarification of rights of Associate Members vs. Regular Members. Part of this arose from the Raiders request and what it might do to the control of the FRA by current members of FRA. Clarification will have to be made in the By-Laws as currently written. The consensus was that only Regular Members should have the right to hold office and vote. Member Hal Leach has been reviewing the By-Laws and has suggested possible future revisions. President Sasser appointed a By-Law Revisit Committee to consist of Vice President Joe Tablada, Board of Directors Hal Leach and Leonard Torres.

A Motion was made for the Executive Committee and the full Board of Directors to go into Closed Session.

**MOTION WAS PASSED**

The Body met in Closed Executive Session and considered matters in relation to the former Executive Director. No further action was contemplated and a

Motion was made and seconded for Adjournment.

**MOTION WAS UNANIMOUSLY PASSED.**

Respectfully submitted,

Bruce F. Meyers # 007, Secretary 6.



**FORCE RECON ASSOCIATION  
U.S. MARINE CORPS**

*“Link forever Those Who Served Together”*

**Meeting of the General Membership**

August 24, 2002  
Washington, D.C. (Arlington, VA)

1. A quorum being present, President Sasser called the meeting to order at 1208.
2. The Secretary requested a motion to dispense with the reading of the minutes of Recon 2001 and to adopt the minutes as submitted. The minutes from the Board of Directors Meeting were read.

**The MOTION WAS ADOPTED.**

3. **“Gunnery Sergeant” Gary Lakis Incident.** Vice President Joe Tablada reported that he had received reports from other SpecOp contacts that the person who attended last year’s 2001 Reunion in Louisville had never served in a Force Recon unit and was thus an impostor (or “wannabe”).

For those in attendance at Louisville, Gary Lakas purporting to be a “Gunnery Sergeant” was wearing 3 silver stars, 2 bronze stars and 3 purple hearts. He had the audacity to have his picture with all of his ribbons and decorations taken with our Commandant, General Jim Jones. When this fraud and illegal impersonation was discovered, Lakas flew to Hawaii and confessed personally to Vice President Tablada. The Executive Committee determined that he had either failed to or presented forged documentation (DD214?) to the prior Executive Director Gary Marte. In that he had never qualified for membership, he was not considered a member. His name has been expunged from FRA records. Investigation is continuing for possible criminal charges. Allegedly, based upon his “membership” in FRA he was able to get a contract training SEALs and other SpecOp personnel. It would appear that if the other allegations against Lakas are substantiated, that any training contracts obtained would be under false premises and could be revoked.

President Sasser warned that it appears that there are a lot of “Wannabes” out there. Persons who claim various special types of duty and appropriate decorations. The Board of Directors urge that complete documentation be required for all future members and that the application contain names of FRA members who were supposed to have served with such person in a Force Recon billet. Further that these sponsors be vetted to ensure that the prospective member is truly eligible. Remember Members: “If everyone could get into Force Recon, It would not be “Force Recon”!

President Sasser emphasized that with the new Executive Director Dr. Wayne Lingenfelter, that all 107 new members have been properly vetted and that the FRA is retaining copies of all DD-214s and other verifying documents. Unfortunately, following the turn-over from the prior Executive Director, there were virtually no membership records indicative of the right to membership. This has now been rectified and, from now on, all persons seeking membership in FRA will provide appropriate documentation (such as copies of DD-214s, orders etc). Efforts will be made to verify qualification for membership of new applicants from present members who may have served with the new applicants.

4. **President’s Report.** President Sasser gave his “President’s Report.” He highlighted parts of his report to the Members that was placed in all attendees folders that they received upon check in. It appears that this 2002 Reunion in Washington, D.C. has the highest attendance of any FRA reunion (e.g. 300+ for the banquet), with more active-duty Marines than any prior reunion. There has been more money raised (in hootch sales and women’s hospitality room sales) than in any prior FRA reunion.
5. **Recommendations on Liability Insurance.** Member Allan Bierline gave a report recommending purchase of a General Liability Insurance Policy for One Million Dollars covering the Board of Directors and Officers and all members of FRA on FRA business. This policy costs \$ 3,400. Allan further recommended purchase of a “Liquor Liability” policy covering all incidents arising from the provision of beverages by FRA in the hospitality room. This policy is for four days and cost \$ 550.

It was moved and seconded that the FRA purchase the above General Liability Policy and the Liquor Liability policy for the Association.

**The Motion was Approved.**

6. **Treasurer's Report.** Treasurer George Saitta presented the association Financial Report for the period October 1, 2001 through August 7, 2002. A copy of this report is appended. The Treasurer's report includes a Balance Sheet, a Profit and Loss Statement, a Transaction Detail by Account. Explanation was made on the consolidation of accounts following transfer from the former Executive Director. The financial transfers to and from the Women's Group was discussed and it was concluded that the FRA would assist the Women's Group in forming its own non-profit and getting their own EIN number to facilitate the accounting with the FRA's reconciliation for the IRS.

As of 30 June 2002, in summary, there was a total of \$ 51,336.30; fixed assets (2 computers, satellite dish etc, brought total of assets to \$ 64,637.56. Total liabilities were \$ 6,301.94. The Profit and Loss Statement showed ordinary income to be \$ 40,221.52 (the bulk of \$ 25,000 was income from dues); expenses are detailed (showing a loss of \$ 2,896 in market investments for the scholarship fund), with the expenses for Recon 2001 in Louisville being \$ 9,569.65. Total expenses were \$ 43,495.58,, making net income showing a loss of \$ 3,274.06. The Transaction Sheet shows every expenditure by item since the new Executive Director took over.

Treasurer George Saitta and President Dick Sasser advised the General Membership of the IRS accounting problems in the transfer of the Ladies' Group gift of two years ago. In order to comply with IRS requirements, the Ladies' Group has been encouraged to file as a non-profit veteran's organization, on its own, and to obtain to obtain an EIN (Employer's Identification Number) to facilitate transfer of funds back from FRA to the Women's Group. [Note: This has now been done].

Following further discussion and response to questions,

It was moved and seconded that the Treasurer's Report be accepted as presented.

**The Motion was Passed.**

7. **Computers and Computer Training.** The training of the new Executive Director and President Sasser's family in running the computer for the new hootch in sale of memorabilia was explained and discussed. No further action was required on this item.
8. **Acknowledgements for Preparation and Support of FRA 2002.** President Sasser acknowledged the tremendous amount of work done in preparation for this reunion. Kudo's were given to a number of members and active duty Marines that assisted in these efforts. Special mention was made of Col. John Ripley, Wayne Pilny, LtCol. Gordy Keiser, MGySgt. Joe Settelin, GySgt. Joe Settelen, Vice President Tablada. Chuck Ascher and others.
9. **Executive Director's Report.** Dr. Wayne Lingenfelter gave the general membership is summary of his Executive Director's Report, a copy of which is appended hereto.

In summary, as of August 19, 2002, we had an increase of 107 new members for a total of active members: 1,385. In Memorium members total 263. There are 1,081 inactive members in the FRA data-base. The total membership in the data-base is thus 2,709.

Discussion of how to attempt to contact these "lost" members ensued. Member Chuck Ascher was to be contacted to determine if there was a computer soft-ware program existent that could assist in tracking down these lost members.

It was moved and seconded to accept the Executive Director's Report as presented.

**The Motion was Adopted Unanimously.**

It was moved and seconded to accept the Executive Director's Report as presented.

**The Motion was Adopted Unanimously.**

10. **Scholarship Report.** Co-Scholarship Chairman John Baker presented the Scholarship Report (copy appended).

As a result of the general drop in the stock market of nearly \$ 3,000, the Scholarship Committee recommended award of \$ 4,000 in scholarships for this year (down from \$ 5,000 last year). The Women's Club also awarded the Donna Johnson Scholarship of \$ 1,000. The Scholarship Committee recommends the following awards for year 2002:

Ernie Defazio Scholarship Award - Mark Granen, UofFL, \$ 1,200  
 Siegel/Houghton Scholarship Award, Rachel Torres, Stanford, \$ 1,000  
 Sasser Scholarship Award, David Gross, Cornell, \$ 900  
 SgtMaj. Maurice Jacques Scholarship Award, Capt. Edward Manning, Hunter College, NY, \$ 900  
 Donna Johnson Scholarship Award, Sharon Gross, Cal State Fresno, \$1,000

It was moved and seconded that the above scholarships be awarded.

**THE MOTION WAS APPROVED.**

John Baker encouraged all members to participate in the auction of items for the Scholarship Fund. He advised that FRA Scholarship Fund now has three commercial sponsors: (1) Zodiac Corporation which donated a Zodiac inflatable boat for auction; USAA Insurance Company of San Antonio, TX which donated a number of items for auction; and (3) Sgt. Grit Enterprises which provided a number of items for auction.

11. **Report of the Nominating Committee.** In the absence of the Past-President Bob Zwiener, Vice President Tablada announced the recommendations of the Nominating Committee, further recommended by the Board of Directors of the list of candidates nominated for the five openings on the Board of Directors:

The slate recommended to the full membership include:

Nelson Donley; Mark Tigh, Charles Bucholz; Hal Leach; Dennis Boyle; Capt. Andy Christian; Fred Beaton; MGySgt Joe Settelen; Abbot Lighter; Jim McKee; Paul Burks Jim Isom and Allan Bierline. Jim Isom requested that his name be withdrawn from slate, which was honored.

Vice President Joe Tablada then asked the General Membership for volunteers to serve on the Disciplinary Board which must be chosen for one year terms. The following Members volunteered to serve on the Disciplinary Board:

Dwayne Neary; Carl Springelmeyer, Butch Goey, Chuck Kitzman; Shawn O'Reilly, Troy Mitchell, Johann Hafferkamp, Sam Sandoz, Joe Kowalski, Larry Jansen, Robert Russell, Bud Fowler and Larry Hartineaux and Jim Dohner.

**(Note: There are no known matters pending for the Disciplinary Board).**

12. **Report of FRA Webmaster.** Co-webmaster Lew Kern reported to the Membership on the new FRA Website which is about to be approved by the Board of Directors. He reported on the Veteran's History Project being conducted by the Library of Congress. No action was required on Lew Kern's report.
13. **FRA Challenge Coins and FRA Rings.** President Sasser advised of recent problems in orders for FRA Challenge Coins and Rings. He suggested to the General membership that the FRA limit FRA Challenge Coins and Rings to one per member and to disallow purchases of multiples of these two items from the hootch. Following a short discussion,

It was moved and seconded that the sale of FRA Challenge Coins and FRA Rings be limited to one of each to only members of FRA.

**The Motion was Approved, Unanimously**

14. **By-Laws Committee.** President Sasser outlined the present By-Laws with respect to classes of membership. The Board of Directors recommended that a By-Laws Committee should be appointed to clarify the various classes of membership, e.g. Regular Members; Associate Members; Honorary Members and In Memoriam Members. He further outlined the problem of members of ANGLICO and of members of the Division Recon Battalions who were not members of the Deep Recon Platoons. He announced the appointment of Vice President Joe Tablada and Board of Directors Members Hal Leach and Leonard Torres who will revisit the By-Laws attempting to clarify in particular the various membership classes to ensure that only regular members may vote and serve as officers or directors of FRA.
15. **Request by Raiders.** A request was received by FRA from the Marine Raiders Association looking to possibly merging into FRA. Both Dick Sasser and Nelson Donley I (representing the WWII era) requested of the Raider Assn. a formal request in writing. To date nothing has been received and we wait until FRA receives a formal request before the Board of Directors takes any action on this matter.
16. **SEALS Request for Participation in “United Warrior Survivor Foundation”** Dick Sasser received a call from a SEAL asking for our FRA participation in and possible contributions to a newly formed “United Survivor Foundation. The Board of Directors recommend a wait and see approach before committing the association. No further action was taken on this matter.
17. **FRA Headstone Marker.** There being no further business before the body, a Motion was made and seconded at 1415 hours to Adjourn

**The Motion was Approved, Unanimously.**

The meeting of the General Membership at Recon 2002 adjourned at 1415 hours.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Bruce F. Meyers

Bruce F. Meyers, # 007, FRA Secretary

## CMC Approves Marine Det USSOCOM

A Marine contribution to USSOCOM has reach final approval and is scheduled for manning from Feb to Jun 2003. The detachment is a proof of concept unit designed as a mini-MAGTF consisting of a small Hqtrs, (4) Force Recon Teams, (1) Radio Recon Team, (1) CI HET Team, a Fire Support Coordination Cell, and an Intel Fusion Team. The unit will be attached to the NSW maritime component of USSOCOM and will be employed to conduct deep reconnaissance, battle space shaping,

direct action (through use of munitions and fire support), limited FID and raid force operations. The Detachment will be approximately 86-90 men. It will be commanded by LtCol Coates (former 1<sup>st</sup> Force CO). It will deploy with NSW Group 1 in the next deployment cycle. This two year contribution will determine follow-on assistance the Marine Corps may be able to provide USSOCOM in the future. Some question why work along USSOCOM? The most basic reason

is that it puts some our best assets out on the tip of the spear and at the disposal of the theater Combatant Commanders. This places them in position to support real time Advance Force Operations to follow on forces, whether Marine or Army. Lets face it, unless real estate is given to the Marines, Force Recon plays a limited role in world events until "They send in the Marines!" So this contribution puts them out ahead of the ship board forces where they belong. It's about time.

## Remembrance and Special Thanks to MWTC

This article is not on the last page because it is of little interest or importance. It is last so as you read and close your FRA Sit Rep you stop and reflect on our loss and say a pray for the family of MSgt Walter "Gus" Reinhard (Ret) FRA# 0856.

On or about Sept 19<sup>th</sup>, 2002, "Gus" went for a day hike in Yosemite National Park. Since Walt was on vacation and quite the outdoorsman, so there was a coordinated check in time, but it was a few days out. By the time the Park Service got the call of a missing hiker, and then located Walt's car at a trail entrance, the trail was several days old.

Cameron Sholly is the Park's lead search director and he applied all his resources to the search with Air and Dog Teams, turning up nothing. Jim Isom FRA # 1286, flew in to make sure all that could be done was being done. Many of you contacted HQMC MAGTF Special Op's Section and CMC to engage resources to help. A full info paper was briefed to CMC and a request went out to MWTC Bridgeport for volunteers to help augment an exhausted Park Service

Team. Ranger Cameron Sholly met with the family and flew them over the area, and then re-engaged his resources when MWTC's Commanding Officer, Col Thomas and Op's Officer Major Kozeniesky organized transportation and men to assist with another search. These men who volunteered were linked to Park Service Dog teams and given sectors for a complete re-search.

Nothing turned up to provide any further lead to indicate one way or the other where Walt could be.

We want to thank all the Marines of MWTC Bridgeport. It was a Holiday weekend and they gave up there 4 day liberty pass to help a lone Recon Marine. The following roster of men showed up to help on their off duty time, with no hesitation. Our deepest "Thanks" go out to the Marines and Sailors for searching for one of our own, Special Thanks to:

LCpl Josephs, A.N.  
LCpl Perkins, J.R.  
Cpl Pedro, J.J.  
Cpl Trapp, N.P.  
HM3 Peterson, T.C.

Sgt Andes, C.W.  
Sgt Ariasrios, J.P.  
Sgt Cooper, J.D.  
Sgt Erdman, J.J.  
Sgt Evers, C.M.  
Sgt Medina, V.H.  
Sgt Montano, D.J.  
Sgt Rademacher, M.W.  
Sgt Saucedo, S.  
Sgt Shofner, B.L.  
Sgt Teahan, S.L.  
Sgt Williams, C.R.  
SSgt Berbig, C.W.  
SSgt Gilliland, J.I.  
SSgt Grube, N.  
GySgt Grigsby, W.J.  
HMC Girard, B.R.  
LT (USN) Thompson, K.E.  
Capt Andretta, M.J.  
Capt Mazzela, T.F.

Please remember Walt's Family and his unique adventurous personality. He will be greatly missed.



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**We're on the Web!**

See us at:

**[www.ForceRecon.com](http://www.ForceRecon.com)**

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## Back Page Info

The Sit Rep has a new look. Dick Sasser asked me to take on the redesign and tabulate the input. I'm not sure I got it all right but for a none computer expert, I did my best.

I think now that I have a template of this, I can get two mail-out Sit Reps written a year and two more electronic versions posted in between the written ones on the Web Site. So four a year will be out there for everyone to enjoy. It will be impossible for me to make four mail versions with HQMC Op Tempo. As many of you know the MAGTF Special Ops Section works all recon and USMC Special Ops

interactions with other services for Lt Gen Bedard. I'm still active duty and pushing 15-18 hour days most of the time. But if someone wants to step up and help we can shoot for four mail out versions as long as they can write two of them.

I ask that all interested in writing articles and information please do so. This is everyone's media voice and I will work to put all of it in the next issue. If you absolutely want it published in the written version, just indicate so and I'll make sure it goes in the

two a year mail out versions.

If you can email the info in a MS Word Document I can reformat it into the columns and as always promise to not change a word of the text.

You can email me at [Titaniumjoe@comcast.net](mailto:Titaniumjoe@comcast.net).

Semper Fi,

MGySgt Joe Settelen #1576

PS: Don't forget annual dues keep us going. I think I'm late! Only 3 units responded with unit updates, they will go in the next issue. The contacts with me have been slow and they are deploying forward for OPLAN executions.. It is a busy time.

## 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.

The FRA maintains a Scholarship Fund to provide educational assistance for its members and or members of their families. We also maintain a Scholarship Fund for those family members who lost their loved ones to the Helo Crash on the West Coast MEU.

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 of Reserve.

In extraordinary cases, we provide benevolent assistance to its members. Our Motto remains... ***"Link Forever Those Who Served Together"***.

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



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