

# SITREP FORCE RECON ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

01 December 2004

Volume 15, Issue 1

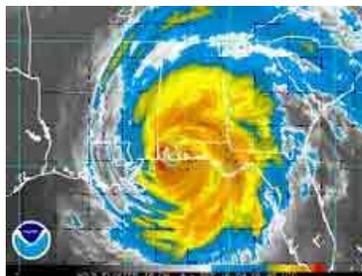
*“Link Forever Those Who Served Together”*

*Special Interest Articles:*

- RECON 2004 & IVAN!
- Letter from your “President”.
- Letter from your “Executive Director”
- Letter from our Ladies.
- FRA Thank You Ltr to “Maj James Capers Jr”
- RECON 2004 After Action Report. General Membership Minutes.

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## RECON 2004 Survives Hurricane IVAN !!

Hello everyone! Many of you know our 2004 reunion has come and gone. What you may not know is we all survived hurricane IVAN with only a few drops of water! While the hurricane started its track towards our reunion site taking aim for New Orleans, the high pressure system held and turned it mid week towards Pensacola Florida. Good for us, but not so good for Pensacola, which sustained substantial damage.

This year was our 25th Anniversary meeting of the Force Recon Association (FRA), and while the hurricane slowed many from getting to the reunion site (due to airport closings and Interstate 10 being washed away near Pensacola, Fl), the turn out was still pretty high. We had over 150 people for the Ball Dinner and over 55 registrations. So the week long event went off without a hitch at the Four Points Sheraton in New Orleans.

If you missed it, let me tell you it was supported by the best hotel staff ever. They

really went above and beyond to make us comfortable and fully pampered while the hurricane limited our activities. Kathleen Young (Sales Director/Event Coordinator) was so terrific. From the support of ever changing schedule requirements, to room changes, room block amounts and even advice on local entertainment and shuttles, she and her staff made us feel appreciated. There was plenty of fun for all, and in every type. Due to the storm we front loaded meetings and business and by Thursday morning we were moving along again.

We managed to be able to accomplish the Golf Tournament on Monday. Then we moved the visit to the WWII D-Day Museum, group lunch and historic tour of downtown New Orleans to Friday. We had the Walk, Crawl Run and the Ball Dinner on Saturday. The only cancellation was the Mississippi Luncheon Cruise (Wednesday) because they had to move the boats upriver and they

didn't make it back in time.

However, the hurricane had some benefits too! First it locked us up in the hotel where we all met for breakfast, lunch and dinner! Plenty of drinks were had and numerous stories told in the hotel bar and hospice rooms. The Executive Board and Board Members were able to meet and use two entire days to hammer out old and new business, update records, and put together “By Laws” and financial recommendations. JJ Rubinfeld, your Treasurer hammered out our actual financial standings and gave a superior brief. Dick Sasser your Executive Director, presented a business plan both in historical perspective and future, providing a map of expectations to get the organization profitable again.

This led to an excellent members luncheon where we were able to update the “By Laws”, share the profit and loss areas with the members and discuss/vote on the possibility of an annual dues increase. After the presentations, the members unanimously voted on the “By

## RECON 2004 New Orleans Louisiana



*"Thanks to all who rode out Hurricane Ivan 2004! We came we shared went endured and we survived, all while having Fun!"*

Laws" adjustment and an annual dues increase from \$25 to \$40 dollars a year (with the option for an additional \$10 increase to \$50 if we do not balance the books this year).

For many of you this may seem bad, but as your incoming President, (Oct 2005), this is necessary as the organizations business practices were neglected a bit in times gone past and we have been holding reunions and operating in the red. If it were not for generous credit card holding members, some reunions would not have happened. So for me to come in with the organization returning to a healthier status, is comforting, as I do not have 30K credit card limit to help carry organization related cash flows, nor should an organization ever be managed in such a manner.

There were a few rumblings out there about reunion refunds. But before you cancel checks, call the President or Executive Director and ask for refund information updates. The FRA Comm. Chief put out a series of refund updates by email. If you missed them let me update you on that issue.

First, if you sent in a registration form, as always, the registration fee is non-refundable. This fee is the fee the reunion committee has to use to set up and pay for the reunion site. If you chose not to come, and the reunion goes as planned, the funds are still expended in the cost of doing business to set up and run the reunion site for the members that do show. The funds for the

events you did not attend (we call them events, like the Mississippi Boat Luncheon this year) are fully REFUNDABLE! So please contact the Ex Director about those funds. If you do not require those funds back and want to make a donation to increase the health of your organization, you may donate those funds to the General Operating Fund or the Scholarship Fund by sending an email to the Executive Director and President. They may ask you to follow up with a letter by mail but they will get the transactions done in the least complicated manner. Many of you may not be aware, but the general operating account has been very low and planning reunions and running your organization requires funds throughout the year to maintain your day to day business, Hootch sales and contact with the active and reserve recon units.

Remember, as many of you know, there have been more instances of people taking advantage of the FRA than the FRA taking advantage of its members. The Executive Board in place now, will NEVER spend your money in a way that takes advantage of you the FRA member. Never!

Please be patient with us as we all have other jobs as well as appointed positions running your organization. Recon Marines should know that integrity and discipline are the hallmarks of a Marine. We will always get the job done and all issues will always get resolved. Our purpose of building an environment to "Link forever those who served together" remains our primary focus.

Now on to other business:

The FRA recognized the five Force Reconnaissance Team Leaders. 2nd Force Recon was able to get a recipient to the reunion on their TL's behalf, but many were still forward deployed and unable to be with us. We did have the daughter of the Capt Peter Johansen, the 2<sup>nd</sup> Force Recon Company TL award named in his behalf, there to present the award. That was quite an honor for us. We thank Mrs. Beyers for her long travel to be with us.

The TLs of the Year Are:

GySgt Sean P. Lunn from 1<sup>st</sup> Force Recon Company  
 SSgt Eden M. Pearl from 2<sup>nd</sup> Force Recon Company  
 Sgt Scott C. LeVan from 3<sup>rd</sup> Force Recon Company  
 Sgt Colby E. Howard from 3<sup>rd</sup> Recon Bn DR Company  
 Sgt Hector M. Chavez 4<sup>th</sup> Force Recon Company.

The By Laws changes were voted on and returned the verbiage in the by laws to that of near original format. It basically says that our executive positions can only be held by former Force Recon unit members. It also sets the provisions for all recon units to join FRA under regular and associate status. I think it is explained in the Secretaries report in those pages below.

Well that is about it for now. It was great to see everyone again this year and we hope to see you next year on the East Coast. Reunion Site final location....coming SOON!!!!



## Letter from your "PRESIDENT"

A few words from your President,

Our mission to have a good time this year was carried out in New Orleans, where most of those who attended carried out that mission with gusto. We were threatened by hurricane Ivan but like true Recon men we looked him in the eye and said you are not going to ruin our reunion. I guess he must have paid us some attention as he diverted and went to Mobile instead. We had about 150 or so at the Banquet and had the pleasure of seeing old friends and warriors once again.

We stumbled through the "run, walk, crawl", spent much time in the Hostess Room renewing old friendships, had an outstanding briefing on the current capabilities of Force Recon by your next President Joe Settelen and conducted some much needed business. We were not able to attend the tours as they were cancelled due to Ivan. The tour companies were able to refund our money and it has been refunded to those who wish it. I would like to thank those who told our Executive Director, Dick Sasser, to keep the money and put it into the Force Recon bank account, that is indeed in keeping with the Force Recon spirit.

In closing I would like to say that in my humble opinion your organization is in good hands and I am proud to be a member of the FRA. UHRAH!

Patrick Teague FRA#0038  
President 04/05

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## Letter from your "Executive Director"

TO: All Members of the FRA Worldwide  
FROM: Dick Sasser, Executive Director

Our 2004 Reunion in New Orleans is now past history but not forgotten. In spite of Hurricane Ivan I believe all that were there, had a good time. For those of you who missed it we hope to see you in the DC area in September of 2005.

Wayne and Nancy Pilny and Pat and I will be looking at hotels in the Fredricksburg area in February. We will advise by website and the next Sitrep on the location and dates of Recon 2005. We still have about 15 members who have not requested a refund for 2004. Please send a note or E-mail me as to what you want me to do with your refund.

The Board of Directors of the FRA, with full approval of the General Membership present in New Orleans voted to increase the dues to \$40 per year. The FRA has not had an increase in dues for fifteen years. The increase will be used for the General Fund. The Board also voted that on a voluntary basis any Life Member who chose to do so, could donate \$25 per year up to five years to build up the Life Membership Fund to its proper level.

It was an honor to have Major James Capers and his wife Dorothy as our Guests of Honor in New Orleans. Jim has contributed many years of dedication to the USMC and the Recon Community, adding to its successes and missions. Thanks for coming and speaking on Saturday night Jim, it was great to see you and Dorothy.

Also thanks to GySgt Dan Nagy from 2<sup>nd</sup> Force Recon Company for their tribute to the daughter of Capt. Johanson who during the Vietnam Conflict gave the ultimate sacrifice.

I want to thank Wayne and Nancy Pilny, Jullian and Betty Tedder and Kathleen Young and her hotel staff for doing such a great job handling our reunion under difficult circumstances. Our thanks to John Baker, Dr. Lingenfelter, Beth and JJ Rubinfeld, Jim McKee and Ray Rossi and all of you who donated items for the auction. It was a great success.

We sold \$5300 of "hootch" items. Thanks again for all those that help support the cause. Please remember the FRA operates only on FRA dues and "hootch" sales.

Member Jim McKee out of Rowe, Mass has volunteered to handle the "hootch". All orders should be sent to him.

Many thanks goes to Steve Lubbert our Commchief, President Elect, Joe Settelen who writes our Sitrep. Thanks to Sam Moyer, Joe Tablada, Butch Gowey, Ed McCourt, our Membership Committee for doing a great job checking and screening our over 100 new member applications this year. All day to day questions can be answered by our Commchief, questions regarding the Sitrep and new articles should be directed to Joe, new membership applications and dues go to the executive director.

All the above duties fall under the Executive Director's watch per the current By-Laws. I want to personally thank those men who have offered to help with my office duties and dedicate their time to helping the FRA.

On behalf of the Ex-Board and Board of Directors I wish you all safe and wonderful holidays. God Bless the Marines and God Bless America.

I remain Semper Fidelis  
Dick Sasser, Executive Director FRA #1795

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## Letter from our LADIES

Dear Ladies and FRA Members,

As the secretary of the Ladies Club, I'd like to thank all the FRA members and our Lady Club members for the hard work and support to the annual Ladies Scholarship Raffle. It produced enough money to fully fund the Ladies Scholarship Award this year. Our congratulations go out to Mary Buckholtz on being selected as the recipient.

Beth Rubenfeld I hear you were a star in recruiting for those raffle tickets and making things happen this year! Thank You for your support. Sorry I couldn't make it out this year.

Our Ladies Club President, Beth Rubenfeld, has already informed me that we are looking for next years raffle items. So keep your eyes open during the year for anything you think might be a good candidate for a silent auction or raffle.

We are told that this year's reunion will probably be another large one, since it is on the east coast. The date is not fixed yet nor the location but you can bet it will provide the same resources with a separate ladies gathering place some where near the Hootch. We are hoping that the member turn out will be equally large for the Ladies Club as it is for the men. There are no dues for this club, so please pass this on to your spouses and if they may be interested in serving for a year or two as an executive of the club their time and effort is appreciated.

Ladies, we look forward to seeing all of you soon and we will provide an update on the location as soon as it is in. And again, search around for some memorable treasures and we will see you soon!

Kim Settelen  
Ladies Club Secretary

## Our Thanks to our Guest Speaker 2004 Major James Capers Jr. USMC (Ret)



Jim & Dorothy,

I would like to take a moment and publicly say the Force Recon Association extends their deepest thanks for attending our annual reunion in New Orleans. Your company was enjoyed by all. Your service to our nation, to force reconnaissance and the Marines that followed in your foot steps is not easily measured once you depart our Corps, but rest assured it is there none the less.

I learned reconnaissance from men you trained and lead at 2d Force Recon Company. They spoke volumes about you when I was coming through the ranks and they mentored me in the same ways you did them. I'm proud of that history, of the 2d Force Recon Company and the heritage that is passed from old to young in Force Recon. You had a profound impact and speaking with you, listening to the way the Corps and reconnaissance was structured, how it treated Marines in your era, enlighten me to the details many leave out of the Corps pages of history.

It is only at these reunions that you really learn the inside stories of the legends and mentors of reconnaissance from the past. I'm so glad you joined us, I'm glad you are back and I hope to see you again next year in Virginia.

To Dorothy , it was my pleasure to meet such a strong woman who stood through thick and thin with her Marine. Your story is just as amazing as your husband's legacy. Jim's stories confirm your strength and courage and are an inspiration to me. I hope for all recon Marines, that your caliber of strength and perseverance is in their wives as well. Thank you for joining us and letting us honor the both of you.

Respectfully,

MGySgt Joe Settelen  
FRA #1576

## From the FRA Secretary

### Force Recon Association

United States Marine Corps

"Link forever those who served together"

September 17, 2004 New Orleans

### Luncheon and General Membership Meeting Minutes

#### 1. Determination of Quorum

#### EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Present: President	Pat Teague, # 0038
Vice President	Wayne Pilny, # 1522
Secretary	Bruce Meyers, # 0007
Treasurer	Eliot "J.J." Rubenfeld, # 1161
President Elect	MGySgt. Joe Settelen III, # 1576
Past President	Dick Sasser, # 1795
Executive Director	Dick Sasser, # 1795

#### BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Present		
Joe Tablada, # 1745	Allan Bierline, # 2065	Wayne Lingenfelter, # 0042
Charles Buchholz, # 0127	Bob Zwiener, # 0356	Jim McKee, # 0965
Excused (Hurricane Ivan)	Andy Christinason, # 2559	Jess Wise, # 1700
Nelson Donley, # 0696	George Saitta, # 1007(Medical)	

A Quorum was determined present for the conduct of FRA business.

- Minutes of FRA 2003 were read and Moved/Seconded and Passed (M/S/P) minutes were approved.
- Executive Director's Report

Current Membership: 598 active dues paying members for 2004. Of the 598, the following numbers paid in advance as follows: 184 paid for 2005; 59 for 2006, 49 for 2007, 8 for 2008; 5 for 2009, 7 for 2010, and 1 each for 2011, 2012 and 2013.

Noted: In 2002, 203 members did not send in any dues (despite being billed); in 2003, 103 members did not send any dues, while in 2003 82 new members joined and in this year 2004, 86 new members have joined FRA. **Total 2004 Membership is 793 (598 yearly, 169 Life, 26 Honorary)**

In February 2004, the Executive Director Dick Sasser started a restricted fund containing all advance payments on dues. Currently we have \$ 8016 in this account, invested in a CD. The Executive Director prior to Dr. Lingenfelter had spent all of the monies that should have been retained in a restricted account. By his actions, our present Executive Director has reinstated the restricted account. It is expected that this will help with our current financial condition. If all those in arrears were to pay their \$ 25, this would bring over \$ 10,358 into our operating funds.

## Recon 2003 After Action Report (General Membership Minutes)

Hootch (Memorabilia sales) had an inventory of approximately \$ 5,000 at time of recovery of the Hootch from Gary Marte. Efforts have been made to reduce the inventory and go to a small order basis rather than tying up FRA cash in Inventory. **Current inventory as of February 2004 prior to New Orleans was \$ 13,000.**

**Dues Increase.** We have not had a dues increase for 15 years and after complete review of the FRA financial condition, the Executive Director, Executive Committee and the Board of Directors unanimously recommended to the membership that FRA yearly Dues, **be increased to \$ 40 per year.**

**M/S/P that Executive Director's Report be accepted as given. Unanimous vote.**

- 4. Treasurers Report.** Treasurer J.J. Rubinfeld, CPA, gave the Treasurer's Report. Summary of Balance Sheet: Total Current Assets \$ 58,200.25 which includes \$ 5,807 in Operating Funds, Restricted Scholarship Funds \$ 24, 418.98; Cash \$ 40; CD in restricted prepaid dues \$ 8015.29; the MEU Scholarship Fund of \$ 5943 is being adjusted out of FRA assets since they are in an educational trust for survivors of the deceased MEU Marines. Furniture and fixtures adjusted for depreciation: \$ 838. Thus, Total Assets are \$ 59,038.25 balance against Liability and Equity of the same amount. Page 2 of report: Profit and Loss: Income: \$ 54,061.55 Total expenses\$ 34,698.59; Net Income \$ 19,378.25; Ordinary Income/Expense: Membership dues \$ 20,347.00; Expenses Bank charges, Contributions; Liability Insurance \$ 2665.34; Miscellaneous Expenses, Postage, Printing, Office Supplies, Accounting fees: \$ 1275; Repairs \$ 1189.40; Satellite, Telephone, Utilities \$4561.08; Total expenses \$ 16,856.46. Net ordinary income \$ 3,850/54 plus Interest \$ 15.29 with bottom line of Net Income \$ 3,845.83 The full Treasurer's report will be published I n the January 2005 SitRep.

Following full discussion, **M/S/P that Treasurer's Report be accepted as presented.**

- 5. Report of Scholarship Committee by Dr. Wayne Lingenfelter.** Current Scholarship funds \$ 22,000. Recommended expenditure of \$ 3,500 for 2004 Scholarships as follows: Ernie DeFazio Award \$ 1,000 to Brendon Blackthorn at U.Conn.; Siegal/Houghton Scholarship \$ 1,000 to Nyamekeye Anderson who is studying aviation at Embry Riddle University; Sasser Scholarship. \$ 500 to Fletcher P. Loder at W. Virginia University; SgtMaj. Maurice Jacques Scholarship \$ 500 Steve Ehresman at Univ. of Mont.; FRA Scholarship Award \$ 500 to Jon Ehresman at Univ. Mont.. No funding was received for the Gary Marte Scholarship and the Padget Scholarship Award so they were not awarded this year.. The Ladies Club awarded the Donna Johnson Scholarship of \$ 1,000 to Mary Buchholz studying Anthropology at DePaul Univ.

**M/S/P that Report of the Scholarship Committee to be accepted as presented.**

- 6. Disciplinary Committee Report by Bob Zwiener.** The Disciplinary Committee will remain as presently constituted.

**M/S/P that the Disciplinary Committee remains as presently constituted.**

- 7. Credentials Committee Report by Bob Zwiener.** The Credentials Committee (for new members). Reported on new vetting procedures now in place. Presently hard copies of all new membership applications are now being retained. DD-214s now being used to ferret out "Wannabees".

**M/S/P that Credentials Committee Report be accepted as presented.**

- 8. Executive Committee and the Recommendations from the Joint Meetings were described. No Motion was made or required.**

- 9. By-Law Changes. Presented by Secretary Bruce Meyers and Pres.Elect Joe Settelen.** Six members (SgtMaj Art Torizzo; SgtMaj. Sam Moyer; J.J. Brown; John Sebern; Capt. Ira Le Blanc and Michael W. Paget) signed the proposed by-law change discussed at FRA 2003 In Hawaii.

Two changes were made in the By-laws (complete posting of the By Laws will occur in the next Sit Rep but abbreviated version is below):

- (1) Under Membership add a sentence under Regular Members: “Only Regular Members may serve as officers or on the Board of Directors for the Association.”  
Under Associate Members add the one sentence: “Associate Members may not serve as officers or on the Board of Directors of the Association.”
- (2) Under Regular Members, expand eligibility for Regular Membership to include:
  - a. (adding) “and those reconnaissance-trained Marines currently serving or having served in the Marine SOCOM Detachment 1.” Marine Corps SOCOM Det 1 is the Marine Corps Special Operations follow-on unit. HQMC has authorized their use of the Raider Patch in that they are being assigned raider-type missions. This unit contains unique special reconnaissance type Marines in a task organized MAGTF concept to be used for special operations.
  - b. In that the Raider Association (75 members) approached FRA last year, just before Hawaii to consider merging in with FRA and have us possibly assist on disbursement of their scholarship funds , the related by-law change was discussed and it was agreed to authorize Raider Association Members to become Associate Members of FRA if they wished to pursue amalgamation.

**After full discussion, it was M/S/P to adopt the above by-law changes. Unanimous vote.**

- 10. Proposed increase of dues to \$ 40 per month.** Discussion was held and all hands agreed that our current finances dictate an increase of dues.

**M/S/P that the annual dues be increased to \$ 40 per year. M/S/P that the Annual Dues be increased to \$ 40 per year.** Life Members will be asked to pay \$25 per year on a voluntary basis for five years. **Unanimous vote.**

All present felt that we should see if the increase to \$40 will not get us over the current financial situation. If not, next year in 2005 then we will have to consider an increase to \$50 per year.

- 11. Team Leader of the Year Report.** Joe Settelen presented the Team Leader Awards for 2004 as **Follows:**

GySgt Sean P. Lunn from 1<sup>st</sup> Force Recon Company, SSgt Eden M. Pearl from 2<sup>nd</sup> Force Recon Company

Sgt Scott C. LeVan from 3<sup>rd</sup> Force Recon Company, Sgt Colby E. Howard from 3<sup>rd</sup> Recon Bn DR Company

Sgt Hector M. Chavez 4<sup>th</sup> Force Recon Company.

**Refunds for Cancellation of Attendance at FRA 2004 because of Hurrican Ivan.** FRA has heard back from the bus companies, tour operators etc. that we can expect a near full refund for trips, busses, etc. cancelled because of the Hurricane. Members may request a refund, contingent on the actual funds received. A number of members who have had to cancel out have asked FRA to keep the monies sent in. There can be no refunds of the \$55 registration fee for FRA 2004. **FRA experienced problems during FRA 2003 in Hawaii from some members who stopped payment on checks. The Executive Committee and the Board of Directors recommended to, and advised the Membership that, in any future stop payments on checks for the reunion, the matter should be referred to the Disciplinary Committee.**

- 12. FRA Reunion locations and times.** After full discussion, it was **M/S/P that the FRA reunions continue to be held every year (instead of every other year as some suggested), and that it be held during the month of September. Unanimous vote.**

**Further, that because of lack of attendance in the middle of the country, that we in the future limit our reunions to either the East Coast or West Coast. The next reunion (2005) will be held in the DC/Quantico area, and in 2006, it will be held in either San Diego or Camp Pendleton areas.**

**M/S/P that reunions be held every year and that future reunions would be limited to the two coasts.**

**Unanimous vote.**

**14. Elections.** The nominating Committee reported that all present members of the Executive Committee members (President, Vice President, Secretary., Treasurer, Pres-Elect) and continuation of Dick Sasser as Executive Director. The General Membership then voted on the proposed slate of six names running for the **Board of Directors**. A vote was held and the following five members were elected: Allan Bierlein, Charles Buchholz, Andy Christian, Jim Donner and Jim McKee.

**Motion for Adjournment M/S/P** The Members present then adjourned for lunch and the auction.

Respectfully submitted,

Bruce F. Meyers, # 007  
Secretary FRA

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FM CMC WASHINGTON DC  
TO AL MARADMIN  
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BT  
UNCLASSIFIED  
MARADMIN 062/04  
MSGID/GENADMIN/CMC WASHINGTON DC I-//  
SUBJ/2004 COLONEL DONALD G. COOK AND COLONEL JAMES L. JONES AWARD//  
POC/ BRIO, ERIC/LCDR/TEL:703-614-2522/EMAIL BORIOEE@HQMC.USMC.MIL//

GENTEX/REMARKS/1. THE NATIONAL MILITARY INTELLIGENCE ASSOCIATION (NMIA) AWARDS THE COLONEL DONALD G. COOK AWARD ANNUALLY TO A MARINE CORPS INTELLIGENCE PROFESSIONAL, REGULAR OFFICER, ENLISTED OR CIVILIAN TO RECOGNIZE PROFESSIONAL EXCELLENCE AND EXCEPTIONAL DEDICATION TO DUTY. COL DONALD G. COOK, US MARINE CORPS, WAS POSTHUMOUSLY AWARDED THE MEDAL OF HONOR FOR GALLANTRY, TO INCLUDE EXEMPLARY CONDUCT AND RESISTANCE WHILE A PRISONER OF WAR IN VIETNAM FROM DEC 1964 TO DEC 1967. TRAINED AS A CHINESE LINGUIST, COL COOK SERVED AS AN ADVISOR TO THE SOUTH VIETNAMESE MARINES IN DEC 1964, SHORTLY AFTER WHICH HE WAS CAPTURED, ULTIMATELY PERISHING IN CAPTIVITY.

2. IN 2004 A SECOND AWARD HAS BEEN ESTABLISHED TO RECOGNIZE A MARINE CORPS RESERVE INTELLIGENCE PROFESSIONAL, OFFICER OR ENLISTED, FOR EXCELLENCE AND DEDICATION TO DUTY. THIS NEW AWARD IS NAMED IN HONOR OF COL JAMES L. JONES, UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS RESERVE, A DECORATED WORLD WAR II INTELLIGENCE OFFICER AND PIONEER OF EXPEDITIONARY AMPHIBIOUS RECONNAISSANCE OPERATIONS. COL JONES SERVED AS G2, AMPHIBIOUS CORPS ATLANTIC FLEET, G2 AMPHIBIOUS CORPS PACIFIC FLEET, COMMANDING OFFICER AMPHIBIOUS RECONNAISSANCE COMPANY DURING THE GILBERT AND MARSHALL ISLANDS CAMPAIGN, AND COMMANDING OFFICER AMPHIBIOUS RECONNAISSANCE BATTALION DURING THE SAIPAN-TINIAN-OKINAWAN CAMPAIGN, WHERE HE WAS AWARDED THE SILVER STAR. HE THEN RETURNED TO RESERVE CIVILIAN LIFE, EXEMPLIFYING THE CITIZEN MARINE.

3. NOMINATIONS FOR THIS YEAR'S AWARD MUST BE RECEIVED BY HQMC INTEL NLT THAN 24 MAR 03. ELIGIBILITY FOR THE ACTIVE DUTY AWARD IS LIMITED TO THOSE WHO WILL REMAIN ON ACTIVE DUTY OR BE ON ACTIVE DUTY OR IN A DRILLING RESERVE STATUS (SMCR OR IMA) THROUGH 1 JUL 04. PACKAGES MUST INCLUDE THE FOLLOWING:

A. JUSTIFICATION: SINGLE SPACED 1-3 PAGE NARRATIVE OUTLINE OF NOMINEE'S ACCOMPLISHMENTS DURING THE CALENDAR YEAR 2003. EMPHASIS ON CONTENT OVER VOLUME.

B. SHORT BIOGRAPHY.

C. PROPOSED CITATION STATEMENT

3. MAIL PACKAGES TO HQMC INTEL, 2 NAVY ANNEX, ATTN: LCDR ERIC BORIO, WASHINGTON DC, 20380-1775. COMMANDS MAY SUBMIT MULTIPLE NOMINEES. ENDORSEMENT FROM HIGHER ECHELONS IS NOT REQUIRED. COMMANDS SUBMITTING NOMINATIONS SHOULD NOTIFY HQMC IN ADVANCE TO ENSURE PROPER STAFFING. DIRINT'S SELECTIONS WILL BE ANNOUNCED VIA RMSG IN LATE APR 2004.

4. THIS YEARS AWARDS WILL BE PRESENTED DURING THE ANNUAL NMIA AWARDS BANQUET TO BE HELD 16 MAY 04 AT THE SHERATON HOTEL, TYSON'S CORNER, VA. ALTHOUGH NMIA HOSTS RECIPIENTS AND THEIR SPOUSES AT THE BANQUET, TAD FUNDING FOR THE AWARDEES IS THE RESPONSIBILITY OF THE NOMINATING COMMAND.

5. POC IS LCDR ERIC BORIO AT 703-614-2522 OR DSN 224-2522, FAX 703-614-5888 OR DSN 224-5888 OR EMAIL BORIOEE@HQMC.USMC.MIL//

BT



## 1<sup>st</sup> Force Reconnaissance Company Update

### 1<sup>st</sup> Force Reconnaissance Company Update

1<sup>st</sup> FORCE RECONNAISSANCE COMPANY, CAMP PENDLETON CALIFORNIA  
(LtCol Smith, SgtMaj Grizzle)

1<sup>st</sup> Force Recon departed on February 27 for OIF II and returned on Sept 2.

The Company integrated one and one half Platoon of reserve Marines from 3<sup>rd</sup> Force Recon Company in Mobile, Alabama who were designated, as our 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> platoons during the entire deployment. They performed magnificently operating on par with their active duty peers. During the deployment the Company conducted a wide range of missions, which included long range reconnaissance in Western Al Anbar province and Al Jezzira desert, and maintained continual around the clock urban reconnaissance and sniper missions in the Al Qaim region. The Company also conducted over forty-five direct actions raids in order to capture or kill enemy high value targets, which resulted in over two hundred suspected insurgents and foreign fighters being captured. The Company also played a pivotal role in large scale house to house fighting that occurred on April 17 and 18 in the city of Husaybah, which is located on the Syrian border. That action resulted in approximately one hundred seventy five enemy combatants being killed. Additionally the Company participated in Operation "Ripper Sweep", which was a supporting effort in the Eastern Al Anbar province during the insurgent uprising in Fallujah during April and May. The Company also conducted Reconnaissance and Surveillance and direct action missions in the vicinity of Ar Rutbah near the Jordanian border. During the course of the seven-month deployment in which combat operations were continual, the Company sustained over twenty casualties which resulted in the award of Purple Heart Medals. Fortunately we lost no Marines during the deployment. Awards for personal valor are still pending and are too numerous to mention specifically.

Key leadership changes: Lt Col G.W. Smith Jr. came from Marine Corps War College and assumed command as the new Commanding officer from Lt Col Copp who is now the X.O. of Marine Barracks 8<sup>th</sup> & I. Maj Dowd came from 1<sup>st</sup> LAR and assumed duties as Operations Officer. Captain Wilson came from NMITC joined as Intelligence Officer. Captain Collins came from CSSG-3 Hawaii is the new Logistic Officer. MGySgt Gillispie came from Naval Special Clearance Team-1 assumed duties as Ops Chief, GySgt Doss also from Naval Special Clearance Team-1 joined as assistance Ops Chief. GySgt Moore from Royal Marine exchange program is the new Platoon Sergeant for 4<sup>th</sup> Platoon.

Headquarters remains busy supporting the MEU SOC platoons and Company. The para-loft (MSgt Packard) supported two successful military freefall and static line packages over the summer, and recertified in 500 pound barrel drops under HAHO and tandem jumps under HALO. The combat dive locker with new Master diver (ENCM) MDV Briggs and EN1 Smith, DC1 Parker and DC1 Stuhl requaling all of the command's combat divers. The communications section Capt Komnick is still the Communications Officer with MSgt Murphy holding the billet of Comm Chief until his retirement date of March 11th 2005. The 1st Force Recon S-6 continues to lead the way and has instituted a Satellite On The Move (SOTM) system that enables deployed Recon elements

## 1st Force Reconnaissance Company (Continued)

continuous voice and data communication. The S-2 with Capt Wilson, SSgt Whaley and S-4 Capt Collins, SSgt Everett continue picking up the pieces from last deployment while preparing for the next. The Company training Platoon GySgt Rohn, SSgt Root, SSgt Vanderplas, SSgt Weber, and Sgt Novakovitch continue to prepare new joins for individual training, Basic Recon Course, and combat dive school. S-1 (SSgt De La Trinidad) continues to sustain the Force with pounds of paperwork.

1<sup>st</sup> Platoon Capt Harriman, GySgt Bagiletto have finished extensive work up. Completing their individual training phase along with unit training and are currently chopped to 15 MEU and will deploy in December.

2<sup>nd</sup> Platoon Capt Opalski, GySgt Evans are attached to 11 MEU who are currently deployed OIF II in the city An Najaf where they are participating in on going combat operations.

3<sup>rd</sup> Platoon Capt Morgan, GySgt Schmidt are currently in the Company phase of training will chop to 13 MEU in June 05

4<sup>th</sup> Platoon Capt Galvin, MSgt Wilson returned from extended deployment with 13 MEU SOC. Which resulted in thirty-three VBSS missions and the confiscation of over seven million dollars worth of illegal Hashish suspected funding of terrorist operations. Also recovering one hundred fifty metric tons of illegally smuggled oil.

5<sup>th</sup> Platoon Capt Graczyk, GySgt Eyestone returned from OIF II.

7<sup>th</sup> Platoon Capt Moore, GySgt Dean return from OIF II and are demobilized and returned to 3<sup>rd</sup> Force Recon Mobile Alabama.

8<sup>th</sup> Platoon Capt Hudson, GySgt Gruber returned from OIF II.

From the Command,  
Semper Fi!



## Reserved For 2<sup>nd</sup> Force Reconnaissance Company

It has been a busy period of time since our last SitRep. The command is currently deployed with our 4<sup>th</sup>, and the 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> respectively, from 3<sup>rd</sup> Force Recon in Mobile, Alabama to support OIF-II. We are deployed in 4 different areas within 1<sup>st</sup> Marine Division's battlespace. To date we have conducted well over 200 missions combined covering cordon and knocks, counter improvised explosive devices (IED) and R&S.

The operational tempo doesn't appear that it will lose any momentum in the near future and will more than likely pick up with the known events to our front. The Marines are doing well, morale is high and they continue to display eagerness of future missions.

### H&S PLT

The headquarters Marines have proven their combat capabilities by being the drivers and gunners on numerous operations in support of platoon missions in support of OIF. At Camp LeJeune the Marines are staying just as busy with preparations for the next iteration of OIF in the upcoming year. They are conducting classes of combat trauma; convoy operations, communications and crew serve weapons qualifications

Next, we have stood up a brand new Headquarters Platoon, under the leadership and direction of Platoon Commander Captain Sheffler and Platoon Sergeant, Sergeant Cedric Smith. In less than 60 days, they already have made a tremendous and positive impact by driving training that includes martial arts, airborne operations, first aid classes, communications classes and practical application, rifle marksmanship, patrolling, and physical training. The positive and enthusiastic attitude of the HQ Marines has been a shot of adrenaline for this command. HQ Platoon is currently preparing for deployment next summer and upcoming training evolutions include SOTG shooting courses, BSR driving courses, PSD training, and deployments to Dawson, WV and Yuma, AZ.

Reconnaissance Training Platoon under the leadership of Gunnery Sergeant Dervin and newly promoted Gunnery Sergeant Bourdaghs continues its absolutely essential mission of recruiting and training the world's finest Reconnaissance Marines.

Finally, we recently held the 2d Force Reconnaissance Company Birthday Ball celebration in Wilmington, NC. Gunnery Sergeant William K. Schanz (Ret.) was our Guest of Honor and we invited the wives of many of our deployed Marines to attend as our guests as well.

### CAS

The medical department under Chief McNeil and HM1 Stevenson finished up with a dynamic pre-deployment work-up, to include admin updates, immunizations and Tactical Combat Casualty Care Course. Presently forward deployed, the medical department is conducting day-to-day sickcall and ensuring that the preventative medicine standards are upheld. Marines continue to receive combat trauma refresher training. Chief McNeil has been worked into the Shock trauma platoons protocols and works in that area from time to time assisting with casualties.

### 1<sup>st</sup> Platoon

The 1<sup>st</sup> Plt recently arrived back in country from being deployed in support of OEF in Afghanistan. During their tour they lived in harsh conditions. The plt cmdr was Capt Buffa, with GySgt Lou Elder as the plt sgt. The team leaders were newly promoted GySgt McNamee, SSgt Dobson and SSgt Balchun. GySgt McNamee is taking over as pltsgt and is currently re outfitting the plt.

## 2nd Force Reconnaissance Company (Continued)

### 2<sup>nd</sup> Platoon

Under the command of Capt Douglas and GySgt "Scotty" Reid with SSgt Parent, SSgt Hoeman and SSgt Pearl as team leaders has been formed into a detachment with 3<sup>rd</sup> Plt, B Co, 2d Recon Bn to support 24th MEU Operations in N Babil/S Baghdad province. The combined force has conducted over 100 missions to include, Direct Action, Reconnaissance and other combat missions. They have captured AIF terrorists. They are also heavily involved in a Foreign Internal Defense mission with the Al Hillah SWAT team. The elite unit of Iragis live, eat and train with the detachment.

### 3<sup>rd</sup> Platoon

GySgt Mercer and Capt Moder's plt with SSgt Snyder, SSgt Davis and SSgt Stivers as team leaders chopped to the 26th MEU in late August, after a rigorous six month Unit Training Phase (UTP), and began its requisite MEU schools immediately. The Helicopter Rope Suspension Training (HRST) and Breacher courses were very successful, and combined with the two week pre-shoot in July, 3d Platoon rolled into SOTG's Dynamic Assault Package well prepared. The Platoon was featured on the 26th MEU web page, and the Marine Corp's web page while conducting close quarters battle (CQB) at the Camp LeJeune MOUT Facility. Challenged on all levels, 3d Platoon wrapped up the Dynamic Assault course on 1 October, looking to implement its skills in the MEU's Maritime Special Purpose Force (MSPF) Interoperability Exercise, and the Visit, Board, Search, and Seizure (VBSS) courses in November. Looking to December, 3d Platoon will be heading to New Orleans for the MEU's TRUEX, which will be the culmination of 3d Platoon's initial phase of CQB training.

### New Joins

In the last few months we have had three new members join the 3d Platoon team. HM1 Taft, our 18D Corpsman, came to us from the Amphibious Reconnaissance School at Ft. Story VA. HM1 Taft is a 2d .

Force veteran, and is no stranger to the community. Cpl Vasquez, our parachute rigger, came over to 3d Platoon from the Paraloft and has recently deployed with 6th Platoon as their rigger, and was an invaluable asset to the Paraloft during the 3d Platoon Deployment For Training (DFT) to Coolidge AZ. SSgt Stowe, our second Explosive Ordnance Disposal (EOD) technician, joined the platoon immediately after returning from Iraq. These individuals bring a wealth of knowledge in their specialties, and have been fully integrated into the 3d Platoon team since their arrival.

### 4<sup>th</sup> platoon

The platoon Sgt is GySgt Ed McDermott, Team Leaders are SSgt Detrick, SSgt Jewell and SSgt Cox. The Plt Cmdr is Capt Schauble. The members of 4<sup>th</sup> platoon are assigned to a Task Force that is currently deployed in support of RCT- 7 operations. The platoon is conducting platoon and team size operations including R&S, sniper along with cordon and knocks. Immediately upon arrival, 4<sup>th</sup> platoon began working with 3/7 and 1/7 in Al Anbar Province conducting direct action and area reconnaissance missions specifically targeting insurgent leaders, makers of improvised explosive devices (IED) and weapons caches. In October 4<sup>th</sup> platoon displaced to another location to form Task Force HVT, specifically targeting the top ten insurgent leaders in the Regimental AO. From late October to the present, 4<sup>th</sup> platoon continues to directly support RCT-7 conducting battle shaping, deep reconnaissance, terminal guidance of munitions and sniper operations in support of maneuver.

### 5th Platoon

The Marines are currently completing school phase. They are spread out across the country finishing Marine Combat Dive, Jump school, Military Free Fall, and Survival Evasion Resistance and Escape Course. The

Platoon will be back together mid-October and will start the Unit Training Phase. We are deploying to West Virginia, December 4-16, to conduct cold weather mountain training. After the holiday period we will be conducting a Force Fires/mobile training package in Yuma, Arizona.

### 7<sup>th</sup> platoon

SSgt Sutton and Capt Anglin's platoon since their arrival in Iraq have been assigned a remote outpost in western Iraq and are constantly under some type of fire. They continue to conduct cordon and knocks, limited scale raids, sniper ops and observation posts.

### 8<sup>th</sup> platoon

With Captain Worth Parker and Master Sergeant Maury Reeves as Platoon Sergeant, is currently deployed to Al Anbar Province, Iraq in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom II. The platoon arrived on August 16 and commenced operations immediately. Working solo, and with units such as 3/7, 1/7, 1<sup>st</sup> LAR, the men of 8<sup>th</sup> Platoon have executed numerous limited scale raids as well as recon and surveillance missions. The end result has been the capture and imprisonment of several known terrorists.

SSgt Tom Leppert received a Certificate of Commendation from the Commanding Officer for protecting a woman at Camp LeJeune from her husband when he attacked her. A note to wife beaters; don't do it when a truck full of Force Recon Marines is driving by.

Our Recon Corpsmen are voluntarily pulling double duty here, helping the medical folks out in addition to keeping our Marines healthy and serving as Recon Operators. Needless to say, the high level of training and professionalism demonstrated by our Sailors has been greatly appreciated.

*On a more personal note, there must be something in the water at Camp Lejeune as we are looking forward to seeing many new babies that were born immediately before and during deployment and those that will be born soon upon return. Semper Fi and thanks to FRA for support.*

### Promotions:

Congratulations to the following Marines on their recent promotions;

Lcpl Silverio A. Richardson	Cpl Christopher L. Smith
Sgt Peter J. Vorster II	Sgt Jordan D. Ames
SSgt Donovan E. Petty	SSgt Christopher B. Williamson
SSgt Brian M. Pavlus	GySgt Daniel R. Bourdaghs
GySgt James M. Wright	SSgt Adriano Garcia Jr.

## MEMORIAL

*We lost two brothers in our Force Reconnaissance community.*

*On September 20<sup>th</sup>, Sgt Foster Harrington was killed in action conducting combat operations in Al Anbar Province, Iraq. Sgt Harrington was assigned to 7<sup>th</sup> platoon out of 3<sup>rd</sup> Force Recon Co., Mobile Al.*

*On November 9th, Sgt David M. Caruso was killed in action conducting combat operations in Fallujah, Iraq. Sgt Caruso was assigned to 4<sup>th</sup> platoon.*

*Our deepest condolences go to their families, relatives and friends. They will be sadly missed.*



### 3<sup>rd</sup> Force Reconnaissance Company Update

It has been a busy year for 3rd Force Company. In January we deployed about 50 Marines, consisting of a reinforced Platoon and a HQ det, to Camp Pendleton to join 1st Force. They deployed as 7th and part of 8th Platoon, 1st Force Recon. The Marines spent 7 months deployed to the Al Anbar Province of Iraq as part of 1st Force. They have recently returned to Mobile.

In June we deployed about 50 Marines to Camp Lejeune to join 2d Force. They were formed into 7th and 8th Platoon, 2d Force Recon Co. They deployed in August and are currently serving in the Al Anbar Province of Iraq.

In June 3rd Force also deployed 30 H&S Marines to join 1st Battalion, 23rd Marines. They are all currently deployed to Western Iraq.

On September 20th Sgt Foster Harrington, 3rd Force 2003 Team Leader of the Year, was killed in Husaybah, Al Anbar Province, Iraq. Sgt Harrington was serving as a Team Leader in 7th Platoon, 2d Force Recon Company. He was killed by a single round to the head. He was providing security down a road while 2 other Marines crossed. He was a great Marine and he will be missed.

All Marines are expected to return to Mobile in the spring and resume normal reserve training. We are grateful for the opportunity to contribute in Iraq and will prepare for any future opportunities.

Respectfully Submitted  
Maj Jack O'Toole



## 4th Force Reconnaissance Company Update

Greetings from 4<sup>th</sup> Force Reconnaissance Company. The past few months have been busy indeed. We have seen this unit reconstitute following the return of two platoons from Operation Iraqi Freedom while planning began for the expected activation of this command in 2005 to support yet another tour in the sand box. In all cases, the Marines of this command have met the challenges of increased operational tempo with enthusiasm and focused dedication to the tasks required to achieve mission accomplishment.

Several personnel changes have occurred since Spring of this year. In July, 1<sup>st</sup>Sgt Robert J Cottle joined the unit as the Company Sergeant Major. 1<sup>st</sup>Sgt Cottle is a former member of this command, having served with both the company in Hawaii and detachment in Reno. We are indeed excited to have him back among our ranks and look forward to his leadership and guidance. In August, LtCol John P. Fairgrieve relinquished command of the company to LtCol Adam S. Cannizzaro. LtCol Cannizzaro comes to us with a strong background in reconnaissance, having served as the XO of the Amphibious Reconnaissance School in Norfolk VA as well as with 3d Force Reconnaissance Company in Mobile AL. With his eyes set firmly on the future, he has set the company on a course that will ensure it meets all of its assigned requirements. Lastly, we bid farewell to Major Reese Rogers in September 2004. Major Rogers served as Company Executive Officer and OIC for the Reno Detachment for the past 4 years. He is succeeded by Major Burl Hudson who comes to us fresh from command of B Company, 4<sup>th</sup> Recon Battalion. A grateful Fair Winds and Following Seas goes to Major Rogers and wholehearted Welcome Aboard to Major Hudson.

As stated above, we've been busy. The first few months of 2004 saw the focus of this unit being on getting ourselves re-set following the deactivation of the unit in November 2003. This entailed putting equipment through required maintenance cycles and getting our training plan re-set. The drill schedule resumed in February and wasted no time in getting the Marines back to the field where they continued to hone and develop skills developed in Iraq. As we rolled in on summer, the company executed three annual training periods; one in Hawaii and two in Reno. One of these annual training packages in Reno focused on parachute and diving proficiency training which saw Marine Corps Systems Command (MARCORSYSCOM) using our Marines to test and evaluate the new Diver Propulsion Device (DPD) which is expected to be fielded in the near future.

### 4th Force Reconnaissance Company (Continued)

So what does the future hold? All indications point to the company deploying at least a detachment of Marines in Summer 2005 for service in Iraq. This expectation has provided a strong, singular focus for us as we prepare ourselves mentally, physically, and materially to meet this challenge. We are expecting to conduct at least one two week training period in Spring 05 before activation and monthly drill periods focus solely on those mission essential tasks required to ensure our success on the ground. New equipment continues to arrive each month as we beat on the doors of 4<sup>th</sup> Marine Division to give us what we need. All in all, our preparations are going well and we will be ready. We know that war is a "come as you are" affair and we are doing everything possible to make sure we are honed to a sharp edge before we receive the call.

From our house to yours, all the best and...  
Semper Fidelis

Major E. W. Novack USMC  
Inspector-Instructor



## 1<sup>st</sup> Reconnaissance Battalion Update

1<sup>st</sup> Reconnaissance Battalion  
Force Recon Assoc. and 1<sup>st</sup> Recon Bn Assoc. News Letter Input

C.O. - Col R.E. Talkington (1 Jan 04 – 14 Oct 04)  
C.O. – LtCol J.C. Marelllo (14 Oct 04– Present)  
X.O. - Maj T.E. Eckloff  
SgtMaj - SgtMaj R.P. Lamelin  
Operations Officer - Maj B.L. Gilman  
Operations Chief - MSgt T.J. Smalenberg

HQ and Service Company:  
Company Commander - Capt A.S. Conway  
1stSgt- 1stSgt M. Dechy

Company A:  
Company Commander - Capt D.M. O'Connor  
1stSgt - 1stSgt J.K. Bell  
Operations Chief - MSgt K.R. Gosney

Company B:  
Company Commander - Capt D.A. Schulz  
1stSgt - 1stSgt J.L. Santiago  
Operations Chief - MSgt K.C. Froisy

Company C:  
Company Commander - Captain B.T. Rideout (30 Apr 03 – 12 Oct 04)  
1stSgt - 1stSgt E.H. Shirreffs

1st Reconnaissance Bn received orders and redeployed to Kuwait in late February 2004 in support of Regimental Combat Team 1. After reconfirming all our BZO's and last minute preparations the Battalion conducted a movement from Kuwait to Camp Fallujah, Iraq and arrived on the 12th of March 2004.

The Battalion initially got its feet wet by conducting counter-mortar/rocket operations utilizing mounted and dismounted patrols. Teams were in hide sites up to 4 days observing and reporting on enemy activity and gaining valuable intelligence on the local populace and their habits. Following our initial operation, the battalion began conducting High Value Target Raids and Cordon & Searches for the RCT and Division as well as continuing to conduct R&S, counter-mortar/rocket operations and sniper missions. The battalion suffered its first casualties in April when a patrol from Company B was ambushed, killing the platoon commander, Captain Brent Morel and seriously wounding five other Marines in Second Platoon. Company B gave back much worse than it received, killing more than 15 insurgents in the engagement. During the course of the deployment, Company A detached from the battalion for two months and moved to Camp

## 1<sup>st</sup> Reconnaissance Battalion Update

Ramadi to conduct special operations in the central sector of the Division's zone. Company A was very successful in this endeavor and on several occasions interdicted the enemy in the process of setting up ambushes on coalition forces. While Company A was tasked with this operation the remainder of the battalion continued conducting counter-mortar/rocket operations, R&S, Security Operations and HVT raids and cordon and searches in RCT-1's zone.

During the deployment, the Battalion conducted a historic High Altitude High Opening (HAHO) parachute insertion when it inserted a Pathfinder Team to establish a DZ and provide ITG for two Recon Teams to infiltrate and conduct a counter Improvised Explosive Device (IED) ambushes. The insertions were successful and the teams did an excellent job. This was the first airborne infiltration in combat since the Vietnam War. Several weeks later the Battalion conducted another successful low-level parachute insertion of three Recon Teams to conduct counter mortar/rocket ambush patrols. A total of twelve of our Marines and Corpsmen received their coveted "Gold Wings" for their combat jumps.

The battalion conducted over 600 combat patrols and 12 HVT raids during the course of the deployment. The battalion produced more than 150 enemy insurgents killed from direct action, and more than 200 criminal detainees gleaned from raid sites, tactical vehicle check points, and interdiction patrols. The Marines in the battalion uncovered more than 30 tons of weapons caches containing high explosives and improvised explosive device construction materials, undoubtedly saving countless lives and severely degrading the insurgency.

The battalion worked closely with a multitude of other units and agencies during the course of the deployment including the Army's 82nd Airborne Division; D Company, 2<sup>nd</sup> LAR Battalion, Scout Platoon, 1<sup>st</sup> Tank Battalion, the command groups for 2/1, 3/4, 3/1, 1/8, 1/5, 1 BCT, 2 BCT; 3rd MAW; Special Operation Command AOB Task Forces 121 and 626; Army Engineers and Army OGA; the US Air Force; Naval Construction Battalion; and the Iraqi Survey Group for sensitive site exploitation.

A total of 7 of our Marines received Purple hearts for wounds sustained in combat against the enemy during our deployment. Numerous Marines in the battalion have been recommended for awards ranging from the Navy Cross to Navy and Marine Corps Achievements Medals with Combat Distinguishing Device.

Upon the battalion's return to CONUS on 5 Oct 04, Colonel Talkington relinquished command to LtCol Joseph C. Marelllo on 14 Oct 2004. Second Platoon, Company A remains forward deployed with 11<sup>th</sup> MEU(SOC) in support of OIF II.



## 2nd Reconnaissance Battalion Update

2<sup>nd</sup> Reconnaissance Battalion is currently serving in Iraq and has been on the ground since mid September. We are conducting mounted and dismounted patrolling, and are having a positive impact on interdicting insurgent forces in our area of operations.

Our thanks and best wishes go out to the men of 1<sup>st</sup> Reconnaissance Battalion. The relief in place was executed without a hitch and the Marines did everything in their power to ensure we were prepared to assume the Recon AOR. The very best TTP's come from Marine to Marine interaction, especially the Team Leader round table events. If you happen to run into one of these men, buy them a beer, it is well deserved.

Since our arrival, we have had the opportunity to visit with the 0321 monitor, and see our men who are attached to the 24<sup>th</sup> MEU. It is difficult to put pen to paper and not touch on sensitive information, I'll do my best to paint the current picture.

On a force protection note; one of the biggest differences from Desert Storm and OIF-1 is the addition of (Up-Armor) to the HMMWVs and the 7-Tons. This has greatly improved the survivability of crews and vehicles. Our Battalion is very healthy in regard to crew served weapons at the Company level, each vehicle has a crew served weapon mounted.

The men are meeting the challenge of a very rigorous patrolling schedule. There has been a large amount of explosives, munitions and weapons un-covered and destroyed by our Marines.

The Battalion has covered a wide spectrum of missions since our arrival; sniper missions, cordon and knock, cordon and search, ambush patrols, cache sweeps, and hasty vehicle check points. One of the best tools in our "toolbox" is the AC-130, which we have used against the insurgent forces in our area.

The M4 carbine in conjunction with the ACOG was a welcome addition to our inventory. With the addition of the myriad of Night Vision Devices, the lethality of the weapons systems has been enhanced, we have the ability to operate in any light condition allowing us unlimited flexibility in mission planning.

The knowledge and experience our Marines are acquiring will have a positive impact in the Reconnaissance Community for years to come. You can be proud of these warriors, for they are upholding the standards you set in place.

Semper Fidelis  
Master Gunnery Sergeant David Helms  
Bn Operations Chief



## 3rd Reconnaissance Battalion

**WHERE THE DIVISION GOES WE'VE BEEN**

From the Marines of the **Forward Shadow**

3d Battalion maintains an extremely high OPTEMPO as we continue to provide forces for the War on Terrorism in both the PACOM and CENTCOM theaters. The Marines and Sailors continue to train hard and develop their tactics, techniques and procedures across the full spectrum of reconnaissance operations. All efforts in the Battalion remain focused on competence, readiness and commitment. These three pillars lead to the overall professionalism that we strive for daily.

The Marines of the **Forward Shadow** continue to hone their skills of being able to **Shoot, Move, and Communicate** in preparation to enter hostile contingencies. Training packages consist of Command and Control, Convoy Operations, Mounted and Dismounted Patrolling, Long Range Communication, Combat Trauma, Supporting Arms, Weapons handling and Shooting skills.

Presently the Battalion has two Platoons deployed with the 31<sup>st</sup> MEU in support of Operation Iraq Freedom, Alpha Company, 1<sup>st</sup> Platoon and 5<sup>th</sup> Platoon. Bravo Company, 2<sup>nd</sup> Platoon is currently forward deployed in support of Operation Iraq Freedom as well. Alpha Company, 2<sup>nd</sup> Platoon and 4<sup>th</sup> Platoon are currently working up for deployments in support of future operations.

The Battalion recently conducted an MC-5 transition package in Australia and is now currently engaged with its Pre-deployment Training Plan for future deployment.

As always the Battalion is highly motivated and looking forward to any and all callings that our great nation and Commandant may call upon us to do.

"Celer, Silens, Mortalis"



## Reserved for 4th Reconnaissance Battalion

4th Reconnaissance Bn Sit Rep Unavailable at this publishing.

What is known is that the men of 4<sup>th</sup> Recon Bn are extremely busy. With Companies based in Montana, Albuquerque, San Antonio, and Alaska, they are constantly training and augmenting the active forces every time they are called on. Reserves forces have been an extremely important part of the war on terror. They too continue to bring the fight to our enemies.

God's Speed Men.

FRA Members Send!



## 1<sup>st</sup> Special Operations Training Group, I MEF

From: OIC, Special Missions Branch, Special Operations Training Group, I Marine Expeditionary Force

The Force Recon Marines attached to the Special Operations Training Group have been very busy training Marines from 1<sup>st</sup> Force Reconnaissance Company and 1<sup>st</sup> Reconnaissance Battalion. The Special Operations Training Group's primary mission is to train Marines in the use of Dynamic Assault techniques, Dynamic Entry procedures, Specialized Demolitions, Maritime Special Purpose Force Reconnaissance tactics and Urban Sniper employment techniques. The warriors at SOTG take personal pride instructing Marines who are deploying in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom and Operation Enduring Freedom. The training scenarios have been challenging and fast paced. We are receiving feedback from the "Sand Box" that the tactics and techniques taught at SOTG are saving lives in combat. We have been constantly improving course curriculum due to feedback from Marines in the fight. We have made radical changes in our CQB tactics and sniper programs. The Marines graduating from SOTG courses who deploy down range are well prepared to survive in combat situations.

2. SOTG Marines have been busy setting up new and imaginative training for our deploying Marines. During TRUE 04-01 SOTG Marines worked in conjunction with a Hollywood production company to give deploying Marines the most realistic training scenarios we have ever produced. SOTG Marines working along side Segall productions turned a section of Victorville, California into Fullujah, Iraq. SOTG hired Segall productions to develop tactical and technical training scenarios that are currently being encountered in Iraq. The use of special effects rocket propelled grenades and actual arabic actors greatly enhanced the training scenario. Hiring Arabic men and woman to act as role players gave Marines a healthy appreciation of the difficulties associated with conducting raid operations in Iraq.

3. We are pleased to announce the following promotions: Sgt Merritt promoted to the rank of SSgt and SSgt Fuentes and Currie promoted to the rank of GySgt. SOTG recently hosted our 1<sup>st</sup> M-4/.45 shooting competition. The competition was close but in the end Sgt Sean Mickle came out on top and now has all the bragging rights concerning combat marksmanship. Additionally SOTG hosted our first sniper competition, which involved shooting the M40A1/A3 during day and night conditions. Sgt Jason Mott was recognized as the SOTG "Top Gun" outscoring all the competition during a two-day evaluated course of fire.

## 1<sup>st</sup> Special Operations Training Group, I MEF Continued

4. SOTG instructors will be busy the next few months evaluating the Force Recon Detachment, 15<sup>th</sup> MEU during their upcoming Joint Task Force Certification Exercise. We have several new projects currently under construction. The new classroom at range 130 is just about complete and will no doubt be a first class training facility for future students. The Marines of SOTG continue to develop new weapons systems. We are currently testing the new 6.8mm x 43 mm assault rifle, the Armalite AR-10 and the Universal Night Site (UNS). We continue to be committed to putting the best possible weapons and gear in the hands of our Marines. Any FRA members in the Camp Pendleton area are encouraged to stop by and observe SOTG/Force Recon training being conducted at the range 130 complex.

**V/R**

**Capt. Andy Christian**

## Update on Marine Corps SOCOM Detachment 1



The Marine Corps force contribution unit "Detachment One", which is a CMC proof of concept designed from a Special Purpose MAGTF consisting of a small Hqtrs, (4) Force Recon Teams, (1) Radio Recon Team, (1) CI HET Team, (1) Fire Support Coordination Cell, and an Intel Fusion Cell performed magnificently while deployed with NSW Squadron One.

The unit received a full compliment of taskings and missions in support of USSOCOMs GWOT campaign plan and the in theater JSOTF in Iraq. Much discussion has occurred related to the Detachments return, its now proven performance, and its future with USSOCOM. Many "Nay Sayers" exist, particularly within the command structure of USSOCOM/NSW. But fortunately it's the civilian leadership who gets to make the final decisions and maybe they will finally crush both services stubbornness to get along. Decisions are forth coming from the Joint Chiefs and the Office of the Secretary of Defense.

There is high confidence that the MAGTF concept provided to SOCOM did in fact prove itself. Its focus on reducing shooter to sensor time, rapid site exploitation and rapid re-cock and self targeting decision capability, were right on the target with the needs of SOCOM. SOCOM is also asking OSD for 9000 more war fighters over the next few years. On sheer need of bodies alone SOCOM should see the value in a USMC force contribution, not to mention the incredible task organization of the Det and its ability to do everything in the dirt. No where in SOCOM do they have this in one package to such a degree, except in the JSOC component.

As with anything the Corps undertakes, the Det's lessons learned have been well researched and planned to the next level and await CMC implementation. They include growing the Det from 87 men to 130. The plan is to tether an Infantry Platoon (+ rein) with a machine gun

section to comprise a self contained security force element. It also requests the attachment of certain aviation platforms in the form of an Aviation element for inter-theater lift and self supportive CAS, mobility and C2 with helo platforms. Only the Corps can adapt and transform this fast to a changing battle space environment. This hybrid Det is all based off the Corps well organized six war fighting functions.

Much has been squawked by other service action officers that the Det was stacked from the start and therefore padded to succeed in SOF operations. This surfaces two specific points that need to be clarified. First, when it came to the personnel selection phase of putting the Det together over 314 SRBs were screened on 7 Dec 2002. The ones that were not picked, were not for lack of training and ability, but more do to personnel locations in every climb and place. Such as the currently chopped 3.0 presence of the MEU(SOC)s, returning MEUs or the JTF in OEF (Afghanistan) or JTF HOA (Horn of Africa). So that point is so far off it rates little further discussion. It also shows how un-informed certain opinions are in relation to the Corps battle space contributions.

Secondly, you only need to review what was tasked and presented from the current leadership at the time to determine how we got where we are? Gen Holland asked then Gen Jones, "Could the Corps make a significant force contribution to SOCOM and how fast could you do it?". This was based in response to 911, and global war on terror pending.

So, I say to these action officers, what review of your specific tasks could make it any clearer. All services know the Corps strength in its one stop shopping mix called the "MAGTF". So acting surprised that the Corps will not just augment certain SOF units with pieces and parts, further diluting Corps own proven method of war fighting should come as no surprise. Marines

should always be organized into synergistic cohesive war fighting units based on mission purpose and mission analysis. The Corps mission analysis on this specified task, lead to the design of a small nimble MAGTF, capable of doing what no one unit outside of JSOC could do in any 4 enemy grid squares. Seems the Corps did its homework on this one. No question about it.

As reported last Sit Rep, Mr. Meacham from the Raiders Association sent a formal request to the Commandant, asking that the unit be directly tied to the Raiders lineage and be the only unit authorized to use the Raiders Insignia. CMC stated in return correspondence that it is a bit too early to make that official tie, and that the Corps is awaiting USSOCOMs acceptance of the Det from a proof of concept to an integrated force. Once accepted by SOCOM this tie may be reviewed and completed.

So the word out there is that decision briefings will take place from now until end of Jan 2005 at the Pentagon and SOCOM. Work will continue to flesh out the final details for the future of the Det. While that is going on, the men are taking some well deserved time off with their families. They will then go into a school training phase, equipment refresh and await the order to begin the expansion phase for bumping up the numbers to a possible 130 in the Det + 58 man Infantry Platoon in direct support. Then enter into another unit training phase and mission training plan for a planned re-deployment in early 2006.

With SOCOM asking OSD to expand SOF by 9000 men, one has to ask our Nation's Leaders, when will you see, the Marine Corps is standing by to answer that call. If only rice bowls can be dumped and common sense applied. It could not be any easier of a decision in our Nation's time of need.



## TAPs and Remembrance



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 losses and say a prayer for those members and the families of our members whose loved ones have passed on.

We have lost several members over the last few months. It is with great sadness that we list them. They all gave more than was expected for God, Country and Corps. Please remember them as you close your Sit Rep.

We honor the following FRA Members:

Larry Rieck FRA # 0997

Dennis Powers FRA # 1363

James D. Moore Jr. FRA # 0756

Geoffrey R. White FRA # 1398

Note: Geoffrey White was made up of amazing character. He was a true patriot to our nation. He was a Major in our Corps and served with 4<sup>th</sup> Force Recon in Hawaii as well as other reconnaissance units. He passed away of cancer, which he kept to himself to allow others around him to live life to the fullest and not in worry for him. He was an amazing friend of many in the FRA and our Corps.

**You Will Be Missed and Never Forgotten.**

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**We're on the Web!**

See us at:

**www.ForceRecon.com**

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## Back Page Info

The Sit Rep has a new look. It's an extreme challenge to get these issues out during the year. The war has every recon unit and position extremely busy with the Global War on Terror. I'm active duty and my Marines out on the tip of the spear are my first priority. But as they send in Sit Reps, we try to get them out to every one as this is first hand info from the men in our beloved units on the front lines.

I'm still hoping some one will step forward to help with the Sit Rep by sending in more articles. I have now received my 1<sup>st</sup> outside article outside of the unit Sit Reps, so get off your butts out there and forward some recon related gouge! I welcome the help.

The Sit Rep is Web based from

here on out to cut down on printing and mailing expenses. However, if you're a member that does not have access to a computer, or cannot have a friend or relative print a copy for you, please call your "President" Pat Teague, or "Executive Director" Dick Sasser. They will see to it that you get a copy.

This news letter is your voice and any and all have input to the content. Your input is truly welcome. I'm merely the tabulator of all the inputs from the four corners of our organization. So feel free to contact me with you inputs.

I ask that all interested in writing articles and information please do so in

MS WORD or in simple email. I then can use that to cut and paste from those formats into this template for posting on the web. I welcome historical articles, past experiences, unit updates and lessons learned.

I promise that I will not change a word of the text. I will however, format it to fit into the columns and if I catch a spelling error I'll correct it.

You can email me at  
[Titaniumjoe@comcast.net](mailto:Titaniumjoe@comcast.net) or  
[SettelenJG@hqmc.usmc.mil](mailto:SettelenJG@hqmc.usmc.mil)

MGySgt Joe Settelen #1576

PS: Don't forget annual dues keep us going!

Semper Fi!

## 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.

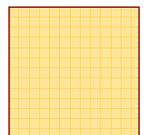
The FRA maintains a Scholarship Fund to provide educational assistance for its members and or members of their families.

We welcome corporate sponsors and their donations to our scholarship fund. If you're a corporation and desire to make a donation to our organization, please contact our "Executive Director" Dick Sasser (209)607-6961.

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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