

SITREP FORCE RECON ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

30 December 2003
Volume 14, Issue 1

“Link Forever Those Who Served Together”

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- Letter from your “Current” President.
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RECON 2003 Waikiki Hawaii

The 24th Anniversary meeting of the Force Recon Association (FRA) was held on August 25th-31st, 2003, in beautiful Waikiki, Hawaii. While the distance made the gathering a little thinner than we like, good times were had by all. Ed McCourt FRA #0983, managed to hijack the favors to get the Hootch sent out by Mil Air saving us a ton of money. Dick Sasser managed to damage his flipper some where in transit (he says he smashed it loading the Hootch & arrived in a soft cast). But that didn't slow Dick down as he pressed on to ensure that great times were had by all.

The Marine Corps Base Kaneohe Bay hosted a wonderful welcome and “FRA Marine Day”. They hosted a good old fashion round robin, where they broke the visitors up into three groups and put on one hell of a show. Each group received a working military dog show, a SWAT demonstration, and a chance to shoot realistic scenarios on the FATs trainer with machine guns, M16s, M9 pistols and shot guns! The FATs trainer was a blast because the computer tracks

the hits and misses, so we where all quick to point out each others short comings on our weapons.

It was a first class demo put on by the Military Police Company. We finished up around lunch with a barbeque hosted by the base game wardens. Hawaiian chicken, jerked steak, rice and all the “fixins” left us full for the remainder of our day of fun.

We then shuttled over to a recon equipment static display and a post “Iraqi Freedom” brief by 4th Force Recon. Our Vice President, Jose Tablada, gave the FRA a close look at the assembly, missions, successes, and lessons learned of our recon Marines involved in Operation Iraqi Freedom.

1st Force had a Platoon of Marines from the 15th MEU at the compound. They just happened to be training and they made their Platoon gear available to walk us through the enhancements in comms, weapons, and cameras.

After a few hours with the recon Marines, the bus took us home by way of the new Iwo Jima memorial out in front of the Base. LtGen

Conway met the FRA members and thanked us for coming and shared with us his thoughts about our organization, recon, and the new memorial.

The Dinner Banquet/Ball was a great time as well. A few of our “Team Leaders of the Year” were able to make it out thanks to their Commanding Officer’s footing their bills, and we honored their talent and recognized their expertise.

Col John Ripley joined us as well and shared his thoughts about those things that make Marines, Marines. As our “Guest of Honor” he was a great inspiration to our young Marines who enjoyed the gathering of young and old.

We knew it was a longer trek more people than most wanted to make on a reunion, but it was well worth the journey. It was great to share old times, and the Waikiki Marriot provided a suite overlooking the water for us to gather and share those old time memories and catch up.

It was another “*Espirit de Corps*” experience; we know you were all there in snirit!



Letter from your "Out Going" PRESIDENT

Members,

I enjoyed being your President for the last three years and look forward to being your Executive Director.

Our reunion in Hawaii was a great success. I want to thank all of those members who worked so hard to make it possible.

My contact numbers are, evening phone – (209) 607-6961, e-mail - sasser@starband.net

DUES - As of this date, 300 plus members have not paid their dues for 2003. A member in good standing must pay his dues each year. There are only two ways FRA can generate funds to keep the association afloat, dues and Hootch sales. Donations for 2003 were \$165. Please send in your dues!

HOOTCH - The Hootch was just delivered back to the mainland the middle of December. Those of you who have orders from Hawaii and orders that were included in your 2004 dues must be patient. The Hootch is being restocked and orders will be filled as soon as we get some inventory. This also includes membership cards.

REUNION COMMITTEE - Wayne Pilny and Julian Tedder have stepped up to the plate to head the 2004 reunion in New Orleans.

MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE - Butch Gowey, Ed McCourt, Sam Moyer

COMM-CHIEF - We would have never been where we are today if it hadn't been for Chuck Ascher, our 1st Association Comm-chief. He has been instrumental in keeping association members abreast of the activities of the FRA and communications when needed. Unfortunately, Chuck has had to stand down due to personal reasons. Wayne Pilny will be handling the Comm-chief duties until February 1, 2004. Steve Luebbert will assume the duties as Comm-chief after that and also will continue as Webmaster.

The Executive Director is responsible for all of the daily activities of the FRA. If you have any productive ideas, give me a call. I look forward to working with our new President Pat Teague and his Executive Committee and Board Members. I wish you and all your families a successful 2004.

I remain, Semper Fidelis,

Dick Sasser



Letter from your "NEW" PRESIDENT

Members,

Once again our annual Reunion is over with and we have fond memories of all that transpired during our annual get together. Nancy and I enjoyed the Reunion in Hawaii and are looking forward to the next one in New Orleans. If what I am hearing from my friends in the Association is any indication, we should have about 300 or so members on hand for that one. If so, then it should be a success and a good time will be had by all.

I would like to take a minute to ask members who have not paid their dues to please do so. If everyone who is delinquent on their dues paid up, we would have an infusion of over \$7,000 that the Association could use. This money replenishes the supply hooch and funds the many activities that your Association is involved in. If active members know of members who are not active, please get in touch with them and see if you can bring them back into the fold.

I feel we have a great organization, and with Dick Sasser as our new Executive Director, we should be able to accomplish a lot in the coming years. If the FRA is going to survive, we must put aside any petty jealousies and differences we may have with each other and pull together as Recon troops are famous for doing. I have every confidence that not only will our FRA survive, but will grow each year as the younger troops that are still on active duty get involved.

If anyone in our membership wishes to get in touch with me about our organization, please feel free to call me at (208) 334-1245 and I will be happy to chat with you.

Never forget that Recon troops are the best of the best and that we "Link Forever Those That Served Together."

Pat Teague, FRA Member 0038

Letter from our LADIES

Dear Ladies,

As the outgoing President of The Ladies Club, I'd like to thank Nancy Pilny, Irene Ramey, and Georgette Studnicka for all the effort and hours of work they dedicated to our cause. The list is too long to thank each person for all your help and support, but you know who you are. Many thanks!

In 2003 we became a non-profit corporation. This means we stand on our own and have no affiliation with the FRA (except we are their better half). It was always our goal to help financially support the FRA's general fund as much as we could. We hope what we started can be continued in the future.

Sadly, one of our dearest members, Dot Ascher passed away. She was our hospitality chairman along with Peggy Russell. We will miss Dot not only for her dedication to the organization, but what a great person.

Your new officers are Beth Rubenfeld, President; Laurie Kowalski Vice-President; Nancy Teague, Treasurer; and Anita Torres, Secretary

If you are interested in helping in the Ladies Club, give one of us a call!

Pat Sasser

RECON 2004 New Orleans Louisiana



Four Points Sheraton



Four Points Sheraton

"Get an early start preparing for the next FRA gathering. Our next one is going to be held in New Orleans from 13-25 August 2003!"

Get an early start preparing for the next FRA gathering. Our next one is going to be held in New Orleans from 13-22 September 2004! Your site planning team made up of Julian Tedder and Wayne and Nancy Pilny have already identified the hotel. You can make reservations with Four Points Sheraton Resort by calling toll free to 1-800-325-3535 or direct at (504) 885-5700. The location address is 6401 Veterans Boulevard, Metairie, LA 70003. Make sure you tell them your part of the "Force Recon Association Reunion". They offer rooms for up to four people per room!

The costs have been pre-negotiated. The rooms are \$70.00 per night. You can plan on dates of arrival and departure up to 10 days at these rates! So if you want to show up a little early or stay a little later after the reunion just make the reservations all at the same time.

There will be no tax on the room and parking is free! There is a free airport shuttle to and from the hotel. Transportation to the downtown district is available right at the hotel lobby in case you don't desire to have a rental car.

There is a lounge for early check-ins if air arrival is before the 1200 check-in time.

They offer free coffee or tea, color TV, and a chiller or refrigerator with every room.

They have a Cafe which will serve breakfast right on site. The Buffet is only \$6.95 per person daily.

The Hotel has provided us a room for the Ladies meeting area, the Men's meeting area, and for the Hootch.

We will be able to staff the room as always with our own collection of drinks. It is already shaping up to be an excellent event!

The tentative schedule is as follows:

Monday, Sept 13th 2004

0700 - 2200 CHECK IN

Tuesday, Sept 14th 2004

0600 - 1300 Golf Tourney

1600 - 2000 Mississippi Dinner Cruise

Wednesday, Sept 15th

1000 - 1500 WW II Museum Visit

1800 - 2000 Ladies Club Welcome Cocktail Party.

Thursday, Sept 16th

0730 - 0900 Walk, Crawl Run 5K

Friday, Sept 17th

0730 - 0930 Executive Board Members Mtg

Saturday, Sept 18th

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 for Memorial Banquet/Dancing.

These scheduled events and times are still **rough!** DO NOT use them as a guaranteed schedule of event times! The actual schedule will be posted on the web site by May 04.

So will the registration form!

This is an update on the events and planning thus far. We will publish more on the FRA web site. Please stay tuned for more info.

Any immediate questions contact Wayne, Nancy, or Teddy!

From the FRA Secretary

FORCE RECON ASSOCIATION
U.S. MARINE CORPS
“Link forever Those Who Served Together”

Combined Meeting of the Executive Committee and Bd. Of Directors

August 29, 2003
Waikiki Marriot, Honolulu, HI

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
	Past President	Bob Zwiener, # 0356

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Present	Allan Bierline, # 2065	
	Elliot (“J. J.”) Rubinfeld, # 1161	
	MGySgt. Joe Settelen, III, # 1576	
Absent	Nelson Donley, # 0696	(unable to travel)
	Charles Buchholz, #0127	(illness in family)
	Bill Block, # 0028	(in midst of selling house/moving)
	Billy Branch, # 0025	(unknown)
	Wes Johnson, # 1711	(unknown)
	Leonard Torres, # 2040	(illness in family)
	Capt. Andrew Christian, # 2559	(returning from deployment/Iraq)

1. **Quorum.** A quorum being present, Pres. Dick Sasser called the meeting to order at 0755 hours.

2. **Minutes of Prior FRA Meeting in Washington, D.C., Aug. 2002.**

After discussion, a motion was made, seconded and passed to approve the minutes of the 2002 meeting in Washington D. C. The minutes were approved as submitted.

3. **Executive Director’s Report.** Executive Director Wayne Lingenfelter presented the Executive Director’s Report (copy appended). In summary, FRA has 1,026 active members that pay their dues. This is an increase of 105 members since our last meeting in Washington, D.C. **Of Note: Dr. Lingenfelter reported that “323 FRA members who paid dues in 2000 and 2001 HAVE NOT PAID DUES SINCE THAT TIME. Dues invoices were sent to all these currently inactive members with no response to**

date." (**Emphasis added**). During this same period, FRA members have paid 832 member-years of dues or \$ 20,790.00.

Recommendations on Supply Hootch. The Executive Director noted that the FRA had purchased \$18,955.98 in merchandise carried in the supply Hootch. Prior to this meeting today, \$14,326.63 had been received in income from Hootch sales. Up to the time of this meeting, some \$ 2,700 in sales had been made at our Hawaii meeting, (later at end, over \$ 3,000). Discussion was held by all present, to include the Executive Committee and Board of Directors. There was general concurrence that much of the fall off in Hootch sales was due to two-thirds less attendance in Hawaii (compared to attendance in Washington D.C.), which most attributed to 9-11; to high deployment of most of the active and reserve Force Recon members; and reluctance by a number of spouses to fly the long distances. Analysis of past sales shows the most intensive months of sales has been just prior to and then during the FRA convention.

Cash Flow Problem. A cash Financial Statement to date for this fiscal year showed that FRA had collected \$40,094.44 into the general fund and has paid out \$48,879.84 from the general fund, causing a cash deficit of \$8,785.40. Although of considerable concern, this is by no means a fatal financial deficit, because of the savings and the capital accounts. A number of items in the Hootch have to be purchased in bulk numbers (which gives FRA a lower purchase price). After a number of sales which recoup the purchase price, then all sales following are total profit for the Hootch.

Following extensive discussion and well presented points on both sides, the Combined Executive Committee/Board of Directors (present) took the following recommendations of the retiring current Executive Director Dr. Wayne Lingenfelter to turn-around this current negative cash flow:

- a. The SitRep is the most expensive service offered to our members. As a result of the high number of members who have access to the FRA website, FRA can save approximately \$8-10,000.00 annually by publishing the SitRep electronically rather than publishing and mailing to each of our members (thus saving the costs of mass publishing and mass mailings). **For all members who do not have computer access to the FRA web site, hard copies will still be printed and mailed to such members**, but at a considerable savings in cost to the FRA. It was noted that since Oct. 2002, the FRA has spent \$12,843.14 in publishing and distribution of the SitRep.
- **It was Moved/Seconded and Passed (UNANIMOUSLY) to publish SitReps electronically with hard copies to be mailed to all who do not have web access.**
- b. **Membership Dues and Rights of Reinstatement for lapsed members.** Dr. Lingenfelter recommended that the FRA consider instituting an initial initiation fee of \$25 and the first year's dues of \$25 (total of \$50 for joining and first year). He recommended some form of reinstatement fees be assessed to FRA members who are not current on their dues.

After extensive discussion, all hands unanimously agreed to keep the yearly dues at \$25.00 per year and have no initiation fee. Currently, there is no fee for those who are years behind in payment of their dues. Incoming President Pat Teague suggested a graded reinstatement fee, contingent on the number of years of unpaid dues as done by other service fraternal organizations.

A Member who is lapsed in payment of dues may not run or serve in office or attend FRA Reunions until all dues are current. Lapsed members may not purchase any material from the Supply Hootch. In 2002, sale of FRA challenge coins and rings was restricted to active, dues-paying members in “Good Standing.” A suggestion was made to add “Good Standing” to the By-Laws, the next time they are revisited.

It was Moved/Seconded and Passed to keep the annual dues at \$25.00 per year. A “Reinstatement Fee” (RF) of \$25 per year of nonpayment of dues to a maximum of \$100 be instituted. Thus, for someone in arrears on dues for one year would be \$50 (one year for current dues plus a Reinstatement Fee” of \$25). For two years of dues nonpayment, total dues plus RF would be \$75, for three or more years of lapse, total dues plus RF would be \$100. The maximum of dues plus RF would remain constant at \$100.

- c. **Excess Inventory in the Supply Hootch.** Dr. Lingenfelter, as the retiring Executive Director, suggested that currently FRA has too many items in the Supply Hootch. He recommended cutting back on the inventory carried.
- After full discussion, it was **Moved, Seconded and Passed (Unanimously) “that every effort will be made to reduce inventory currently on hand by selling some items at cost.” Further, that the Supply Hootch move toward a “Supply On-Time” inventory system and that the total number of items be reduced to approximately ten (10) items that have proven to be popular, and quick-sellers.**

New Executive Director. Dr. Wayne Lingenfelter had previously advised the Executive Board and the Board of Directors that he would only serve for two years. Dr. Wayne graciously served for two-years without any compensation but was reimbursed for out-of-pocket expenses, telephone calls, etc.

Notice was sent to the Membership asking for interested applicants. The only person to apply was President Dick Sasser. Dr. Wayne initially recommended that the new Executive Director (because of the current operating funds limitation) continue to not receive any compensation, but that all travel expenses and FRA Reunion incidental expenses be reimbursed or alternatively, that a modest salary be paid but no reimbursement for travel and FRA Reunion costs.

Discussion was held and mindful of the current cash situation and in accordance with the By-Laws, the President-Elect, Pat Teague, asked Dick Sasser if he would serve without compensation, but with reimbursement of all expenses and travel for himself plus one. This was done with the understanding that the Executive Committee and the Board of Directors would review the then-current financial situation of the FRA and fiscal conditions permitting, would pay an amount of salary or bonus which would be determined at the next annual FRA Convention in New Orleans. After due consideration, retiring President Dick Sasser agreed to become the new Executive Director upon the closure of FRA Reunion 2003 in Hawaii.

- **It was Moved, Seconded and Passed that Dick Sasser be appointed as the new FRA Executive Director, subject to the above reimbursement and salary/bonus considerations.**

Award of FRA Scholarships. As chair of the Scholarship Committee (consisting of John Baker and himself), Dr. Lingenfelter recommended the following scholarships be awarded:

Ernie DeFazio Scholarship Award - \$1,000 to FRA Member R. Worth Parker who is attending Law School at Florida State University. (Member # 2790)

Siegel/Houghton Scholarship Award - \$1,000 to FRA Member Brendan A. Butkus, Univ. of CT (Military Science. (Member 2733)

Sasser Scholarship Award - \$500 to Steve Ehresman, Univ. of Montana (Pharmacy). Grandson of Carl L. Sprengelmeyer, # 0152)

SgtMaj. Maurice J. Jacques Scholarship Award - \$500 to Kenneth M. Rodriguez, Mira Costa College, CA (Political Science). (Son of Kenneth M. Rodriguez, # 110)

The Ladies Club requested the Scholarship Committee to select an awardee for the Ladies Club sponsored Donna Johnson Scholarship Award:

Donna Johnson Scholarship Award - \$1,000 to Sara L. Buda, Univ. of Hawaii, Biological Science (daughter of FRA Member Robert F. Buda, # 1220)

Proposed Budget for 2004. The Executive Director included a proposed budget for the forthcoming year (October 1, 2003 – September 30, 2004). It was based upon past budgets and had no major changes. After discussion, it was:

- **Moved, Seconded and Adopted.**

Report of Nominating Committee. President Bob Zwiener presented the proposed slate for this next two years:

President	Pat Teague (Moved up by By-Laws from Pres. Elect)
Vice President	Wayne Pilny
President Elect	Joe Settelen
Treasurer	J. J. Rubenfeld
Secretary	Bruce Meyers (agreed to serve one more year if elected)

Proposed New Slate of Board of Directors (Six required, 5 usual + 1 to replace Joe Settelen, if he is elected as President-Elect):

Billy Branch	George Saitta
Len Torres	Wayne Lingenfelter
Mike Mizko	Joe Tablada
James McKee	Jess Wise
Bob Zwiener	

Pres. Zwiener recommended to continue the Disciplinary Board (10 Members) to continue as presently constituted.

- It was **Moved, Seconded, and Passed** that the above Proposed Slate be adopted and presented to the General Membership.

Team Leader Awards Board Member Joe Settelen reviewed the current assignment policies which are beginning to blend Marines with similar training and skills in both the Force Recon Companies and within the Recon Battalions. In Iraq, elements of both Recon Battalion and Force Recon served on coordinated missions. Joe said that when tasked to work with the active duty First Sergeants/Sgt Majors whom he works with on a continuing basis, he did not think about selecting just Force Recon Company nominations for Team Leader of the Year. As a consequence, he selected eight (8) nominees, half from Force Recon and half from Recon Battalion. His selection of the 4 “new to our FRA Reunion Procedures”, in his opinion, “backfired in an unexpected and positive way.” Most of the Recon Battalion members are aware of our Associate Member Status for Marines in the Recon Battalion until they are assigned to a Force Recon Company. Once that happens the “A” for Associate Member of FRA comes off and they are full members. The 1stSgts and Sgt Majors collectively felt that it was a very positive thing that the FRA had done, to include recognition for their team leaders. “That it showed class” for what a fine organization FRA is. There was some discussion as to permitting Recon Members to become full members with right to run for office and vote. It was explained that with the unit strength of the Recon Battalions being 1261 members vs. the 314 presently assigned Force Recon Marines, that our Association could be inundated with Recon Battalion members and those of us from Force Recon would lose all identity. The FRA was established in 1982, many years before any of the Recon Battalions began to organize as fraternal organizations. There was collective agreement that, at this time, we would leave Recon Battalion Members as Associate Members if they wished to participate in FRA activities etc. But, as soon as they are assigned to a Force Recon Company, they would achieve full and complete membership with the right to vote and hold office.

We collectively agreed to reconsider the awards next year and determine the breadth of our recognition policy and to see if we wish to revert to recognition of just Force Recon Companies or whether we want to replicate this year with recognition of both the FR Companies and the Recon Battalions.

The nominees and units to receive the award at the Banquet are as follows:

1 st Force Recon Co	SSgt Christopher A. Currie
2 nd Force Recon Co	GySgt Deryk Dervin
3 rd Force Recon Co	Sgt. Foster L. Harrington
4 th Force Recon Co	SSgt Patrick A. Sterling
1 st Recon Battalion	Sgt. Bradley W. Colbert
2 nd Recon Battalion	Sgt Tamatea M. Teai
3 rd Recon Battalion	Sgt Thomas W. Richter
4 th Recon Battalion	Sgt Jason M. Lewis

- It was **Moved, Seconded and Passed** that the above awards be given.

Treasurer’s Report. Treasurer George Saitta presented the association Financial Report for the period August 7, 2002, through June 30, 2003. A copy of this report is appended. The Treasurer’s report includes a Balance Sheet, a Profit and Loss Statement, and a Transaction Detailed by Account. Explanation was made on the consolidation of accounts following transfer from the former Executive Director as well as the former MEU Scholarship monies. Confirmation of the complete financial independence of the Women’s Club was explained. The secretary (the undersigned) explained that the Women’s Club is now completely their own non-profit organization with their own EIN number for IRS purposes and that FRA no longer is required to report for that organization.

Following review of the Treasurer’s Report it was:

- **Moved, Seconded and Passed** to accept the Treasurer’s Report as presented.

Agenda for Meeting of the General Membership

Reunion Locations. President-Elect Pat Teague pointed out that FRA was not strictly following the previously expressed desire of the membership to hold two out of three reunions during the month of September with the 3rd being in August. The last two reunions have both been in August. The schedule for upcoming reunions is as follows: Sep 2004, New Orleans; Sep 2005, Washington DC/Quantico area; Aug 2006, San Diego/Camp Pendleton area.

Corporate Sponsorships. Following the successful corporate sponsorship of the past two years (e.g. Zodiac and USAA Insurance Co.), Joe Settelen was authorized to continue to contact corporate entities to foster such corporate sponsorships. Specifically, he was asked to approach Zodiac of N. America on a continuing corporate sponsorship.

Banquet Attendance. Attendance count for the banquet was 123 personnel including Col. John Ripley, Navy Cross recipient for his blowing the bridge at Dong Ha, as the guest of honor/speaker.

FRA Insurance. Board of Directors Allan Bierline, an independent insurance broker in his "other life", updated the Executive Committee and the Board of Directors on our FRA liability insurance coverage. He felt that our current coverage was adequate and that we are suitably covered for the bulk of anticipated risks.

There being no further business before the combined meeting, it was:

- **Moved, Seconded and Passed that we Adjourn.**

The meeting adjourned at 1135 hours.

Respectfully submitted,

Bruce F. Meyers, # 0007
Secretary of FRA



1st Force Reconnaissance Company Update

1st FORCE RECONNAISSANCE COMPANY, CAMP PENDLETON, CALIFORNIA
(LtCol Copp, SgtMaj Grizzle)

by MSgt Patrick M. Whelan, Operations Chief

Following 1st Force's return from OIF, the Company's OPTEMPO quickly picked up. 3rd Platoon (Maj White, GySgt Horan) returned to CONUS with 15th MEU (SOC), while 2d Platoon (1stLt Opalski, GySgt Evans) began unit training for deployment with 11th MEU. 1st Platoon (Capt Hudson, GySgt Rummell) started individual training phase for MEU deployment as well. 4th Platoon (Capt Galvin, GySgt Wilson) remains forward deployed with 13th MEU (SOC) while 5th Platoon (Capt Harriman, GySgt Eyestone) formed as a MAGTF platoon, training in support of MEF level deep reconnaissance activities. The Company Training Platoon (MSgt Froisy, SSgt Tomlinson, SSgt Ford) continues to prepare new joins for individual training, Basic Recon Course, and combatant dive school.

SgtMaj Charles Patrick retired from active duty following 25 years service. SgtMaj Grizzle posted as his replacement following duty as a Recruit Training Battalion SgtMaj at MCRD, San Diego.

Key leadership changes. Maj Veeris assumed duties as the Company XO; Maj White is the new Operations and Training Officer. 1stLt Edwards joined as the Supply Officer following assignments with the 1st MAW, Okinawa, Japan. Capt Komnick joined as the new communications/Electronic Officer from Newport, RI. Capt Graczyk joined the Company as the S3A from 7th Marine Regiment. MSgt Whelan (Operations Chief) joined from Marine Security Guard duty, and GySgt Rohn (Training Chief) joined from 4th Force Recon Co, Hawaii.

1st Platoon is in the final stages of their individual training phase and will begin unit training in January 04. Capt Harriman is attending BRC, Sgt Hull is attending Military Free Fall School, Sgt Spicher and Sgt Yerkes are attending basic Airborne school, Sgt Fulkerson, Sgt Blonder, Sgt Jarvis are attending Combat Dive School, and Cpl Ashby is attending Sniper school. Graduations for 1st Platoon include Sgt Knouse, Military Free Fall, SSgt Blanton, Sgt Jarvis, and Sgt Yerkes, Scout Sniper School, Sgt Hull and Sgt Hauenstein, Long Range Surveillance Leaders Course (LRSLC).

1st Force Reconnaissance Company Update



2nd Platoon continues unit training in preparation for MEU deployment. The platoon conducted a Force Fires package and an advanced airborne package. The platoon executed 5 HALO jumps from 13,000 ft, and 13 HAHO jumps from 20,000 ft with a stand off in excess of 20 kilometers. While the air team was in El Centro, the rest of the platoon attended a Fast Attack Vehicle course aboard Camp Pendleton.

4th Platoon is underway since late August with the 13th MEU (SOC) for an "extended" deployment. They are expected back in CONUS sometime next spring..

5th Platoon continues to form as the MEF platoon. Capt Harriman is presently attending BRC, Sgt Dean is attending Marine Combatant Dive School, and Sgt Baumgartner is attending Army Ranger School. School graduations for 5th Platoon include: Sgt Dean from BRC, Sgt Hill from Ranger School, and Sgt Davis from Long Range Surveillance Leaders Course (LRSLC).

Headquarters remains busy supporting the platoons and Company. The paraloft (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 lost it's Master Diver to the USS GRAPPLE, but scored a 97% on Navy Safety Center inspection with the assistance of EN1 Smith and DC1 Parker while concurrently requaling all of the command's combatant divers. The communications section (Capt Komnick, MSgt Murphy) recovered its entire OIF table of equipment and rapidly started refresher training for four platoons and Operations Center. The S2 (Capt Smith, SSgt Whaley) and S4 (Capt Niewenhaus, MSgt Fannon) continue picking up the pieces from last deployment while preparing for the next...no easy task. S1 (SSgt De La Trinidad) continues to sustain the Force with pounds of paperwork.

All the command's Marines and sailors have returned from OIF. The Detachment that remained behind following the Company (-) redeployment in May returned in September, and the 4th Force Recon Co Marines activated for OIF are expected to demobilize during October 03.

Semper Fi!



Reserved For 2nd Force Reconnaissance Company

2nd Force Sit Rep Unavailable at this publishing.

What is known is that the men of 2nd Force are extremely busy. With two MEUs out and one in work up cycle and OIF II deployments scheduled for later in July/Aug 04, they are bringing the fight to our enemies.

God's Speed Men.

FRA Members Send!



3rd Force Reconnaissance Company Update

3rd Force Reconnaissance Company is currently staffed at approximately 170 Officers, Enlisted and Navy Corpsmen personnel, including both active duty and reserve Marines. The Company is broken down into a headquarters and service platoon, one training platoon and three line reconnaissance platoons. The active duty I&I staff is an integrated staff, meaning that should the company deploy, its I&I staff will deploy as well. 3rd Force also employs the pipeline program for potential Reconnaissance Marines. These "pipeliners" are held here at the reserve center on active duty, participating within the training platoon and conduct their initial schools phase, going to BRC, Airborne, MCD, and SERE School before they come off of the program and go directly into reserve status here.

The Company training plan for 2003 saw Marines conducting training in several areas, including R&S, patrolling, long range communication, parachuting, diving, mobile reconnaissance, advanced marksmanship skills, staff planning and HRST. In addition to the normal monthly drills, the Company deployed to NAS Fallon, Nevada for the Company two week annual training and sent detachments to Key West, FL for amphibious and UBA infiltration AT's and Yuma Proving Grounds, AZ for MC5 static line transition course.

3rd Force also did the Field Users Evaluation for a variety of equipment that is currently used or will be used in the near future by reconnaissance units. The STIDD (submersible delivery vehicle), the Tactical Hydrographic Survey Equipment and the Integrated Diver Display (heads up display for dive mask) were all conducted in conjunction with Raid and Recon Branch from SysCom. The MSIDs Field User Evaluation for the newest updates to the MSIDs was also conducted.

The Company will conduct a Change of Command in November with the current C.O., Col Christopher Roosa relinquishing command to LtCol Michael D. Visconage.

In 2004 3rd Force will continue to hone reconnaissance peculiar skills throughout the year. Deployments to Camp Lejeune, Guam and Yuma Proving Grounds are currently planned to enhance all around capabilities.

M. L. LEWIS
Operations Chief



4th Force Reconnaissance Company Update

After the ground campaign, the Marines and sailors of 4th Force Recon along with reconstituting elements from 1st Force Reconnaissance Co. comprised Det., 1st Force Reconnaissance Co. FWD. From 13 June to 27 September, this Detachment operated with other elements of 1st MARDIV as part of Task Force Scorpion.

The Task Force's primary objectives was to determine what enemy factions were planning and conducting almost daily attacks against Coalition forces in the North Babil governate of the Marine Expeditionary Force's area of operations, counter these threats, and ultimately secure the theater Alternate Supply Route – "ASR Sue".

In execution of these tasks, the Detachment performed daily reconnaissance and surveillance missions, vehicle check points, almost daily raids and other precision engagements that resulted in the capture of numerous Baath Party officials, religious extremists, terrorist cell leaders and their members and the confiscation and destruction of their weapons caches.

Additionally, Elements of the Detachment performed Personal Security Detachments (PSD) duties for several high profile missions. The first was a sustained mission in support of the National Security Agency (NSA) as they performed a 45-day baseline collection and post conflict assessment of the country of Iraq's communications capabilities.

The second was for the Office of the Coalition Provisional Authority (OCPA). This task involved the personal protection a high profile member (one of only four female members) of the new Interim Iraqi Governing Council. In satisfaction of this task, along with the direct security of their "Principal", this team successfully trained and certified (through OCPA) a contract security detail to replace them upon their order to retrograde.

The Detachment suffered 5 casualties during these operations:

SSgt Murwin

HM2 Contreras

Sgt Moffitt

Sgt Pineda

Sgt Siemen

SSgt Murwin is still recuperating from his injuries while the others returned to duty immediately.

The Reno Detachment redeployed from the Operation Iraqi Freedom on the 13th of September while the Hawaii Detachment returned to Hawaii on the 15th of September. Although they are excited to be home with their families again, our Marines remain ready to answer the call once again if required.



1st Reconnaissance Battalion Update

CO- LTCOL RORY TALKINGTON
 XO-MAJ TODD ECKLOFF
 SGTMAJ- SGTMAJ RICHARD LAMELIN
 OPSO- CAPT BRIAN GILMAN
 OPSCHIEF- MSGT TODD SMALENBERG

After our return from sustained and highly successful combat operations during Operation Iraqi Freedom (OIF), 1st Recon Bn went through a leave period followed by a detailed maintenance stand-down. Upon completion of those evolutions the battalion began training at full speed once again as well as recruiting quality Marines from throughout IMEF. We are currently supporting the CAX program as well as planning for major 1st Marine Division exercises. We are anticipating the arrival of our new MC-5 parachutes so we can commence our transition program as well as the stand up of our new paraloft. SgtMaj Sixta, our long-serving Battalion SgtMaj has recently retired and will be missed. We have welcomed SgtMaj Lamelin into the Battalion. We are also looking forward to our upcoming Marine Corps Ball on 20 November.

LtCol R.E. Talkington sends

WELCOME ABOARD:

SGTMAJ LAMELIN FROM
 MSGT SMALENBERG FROM THE MILITARY FREEFALL SCHOOL
 MSGT GOSNEY FROM VSW
 GYSGT YAROLEM FROM BRC
 HMC BILL BROWN FROM BRC
 HM1 FRANK PIPER
 PVT WARNKE
 CPLS - TALBERT, MUSICK, WRIGHT, ITSCHNER
 CAPT MCDOWELL
 CAPT JOHNS

HAIL AND FAREWELL

SGTMAJ SIXTA TO 1ST CIVDIV
 GYSGT BARRETT TO HQMC
 GYSGT MARANO TO I&I NEW MEXICO
 GYSGT MORRON TO BRIDGEPORT
 CPL POGGI TO 2ND FORCE RECON
 SGT HERNANDEZ TO 1ST FORCE RECON
 SGT PETERS TO BRC
 CAPT CHANG TO MCRD SAN DIEGO
 GYSGT KRUGER TO 1 MEF
 SSGT PEREDA TO CIVILIAN LIFE
 SSGT GENNARI TO CIVILIAN LIFE

AWARDS FOR OIF:

CPL DARNOLD, SGT PATRICK, CPL STAFFORD - PURPLE HEART
 SGT VASQUES, CPL BURRIS- PURPLE HEART
 GYSGT GRIEGO NMCCOM W/V
 CAPT KINTZLEY NMCCOM W/V
 MSGT MATSON NMCCOM W/V
 SGT BALKOWITSCH NMCCOM W/V
 SSGT MATHIJSEN NMCCOM W/V
 CPL POGGI NMCCOM W/V
 GYSGT MORRON NMCCOM W/V
 SGT COPELAND NACH W/V
 SGT GUAY NACH W/V

CPL KELSAW NACH W/V
 CPL OLCOTT NACH W/V
 CPL COMPTON NACH W/V
 HM1 GRAHAM NACH W/V
 CPL HUTCHISON NACH
 FOUR-CORPSMEN NACH W/V
 SSGT DANIEL NACH W/V
 GYSGT MARANO NACH W/V
 HM2 DEBRAUWERE NACH W/V
 SSGT SUTHERBY NACH W/V
 SGT GUERRA NACH W/V



1st Reconnaissance Battalion Update

SCHOOLS COMPLETED:

ADV. SNIPER: SSGT SUTHERBY, CPL HOHMAN, SGT MOTT, AND SGT CUNNINGHAM RECEIVED THE HIGH SHOOTER AWARD

JUMP: SGT BALKOWITSCH, SGT GUAY CAPT RIDEOUT, SGT GOYDA, SGT GRAVES, CAPT GORENTZ, SSGT WATSON, LT SCRIBNER, AND LT BODNAR

BRC: SGT SMITH, CPL TESHIMA, LCPL COLLINS, PFC BARNES

SERE: CPL TESHIMA, CPL PATCH, CPL WHIPPLE, LCPL COLLINS, LT REYES, SGT ZEIFANG, SGT HORNSTEIN, CPL WHITTED, LCPL STAAL, CAPT MCFARLAND, CPL LOPEZ, LCPL GAYNOR AND LCPL GUILD

HRST: SGT CULLINS

CWSS: SGT LAUKHUF AND CPL DOHERTY

OTH: CPL SAUCIER

DIVE: CAPT SCHWETJE

GRND OPS: CPL LAI

SEC MNGR: CAPT CONWAY

PROMOTIONS:

SSGT SUTHERBY
SGT AVAK
SGT GUERRA
CPL TESHIMA
CPL DAVID
SGT JOHNSON
SGT NEIL
SSGT MARZI
CPL FONDERSMITH
CPL LOPEZ

COMBAT PROMOTIONS:

SSGT COLBERT
SGT DOMKE
CPL RUBINO
CPL KIM



2nd Reconnaissance Battalion Update

2d Recon Bn Sit Rep:

In support of OIF 2d Recon Battalion deployed a company (rein) with Task Force Tarawa. Simultaneously the Battalion provided 3 teams (led by 2 MSgt's and 1 MGySgt) providing training to foreign government force's ISO JTF HOA (Horn of Africa) / Operation Enduring Freedom. All forces returned to Camp Lejeune between July and Sept 03. The Battalion continues to support the 22nd, 24th and 26th MEU's. The Recon Plt ISO 26 MUE provided support to OIF. The Battalion continues to hone their operational abilities / command and control through Battalion deployments to AP Hill VA and 29 Palms Calif. In the spring of 04 the Battalion plans to concentrate efforts on amphibious training at a location yet to be determined. In June 03 the post and relief of (outgoing Battalion Commander) LtCol Ray Coia and (inbound Battalion Commander) LtCol Darric Knight occurred. On 10 November 03 the Battalion will celebrate the Marine Corps birthday in Wilmington NC. Those former 2d Recon Bn / Recon types desiring more information about the Battalions annual Marine Corps Birthday Celebration can contact the Battalion S-3 at 910-450-7729 or 30 (MGySgt Miller or MSgt Helms). We continue to develop our new 0321 MOS. Currently the Battalion trains new joins the way we always have "firm, fair and hard". At this time the Battalion has 40 new candidates under going pre-MOS training. Upon conclusion of the 5 week training program they will report to Ft Story, VA for training as 0321 Recon Marines.

Semper Fi-

MGySgt Miller, JR (Operations Chief)



Reserved for 3rd Reconnaissance Battalion

3rd Reconnaissance Bn Sit Rep Unavailable at this publishing.

What is known is that the men of 3rd Recon are extremely busy under Commanding Officer LtCol George Bristol. With one MEU out, and one in work up cycle at all times, plus regular unit deployments into the Philippines and Thailand, they to are bringing the fight to our enemies.

God's Speed Men.

FRA Members Send!



Reserved for 4th Reconnaissance Battalion

4th Reconnaissance Bn Sit Rep Unavailable at this publishing.

What is known is that the men of 4th 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!

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 are doing fantastic.

The unit has received its full compliment of personnel and equipment. They are now well into their Mission Training Plan (MTP), preparing for real world deployments. Recent exercises designed to move the detachment as a unit and attack realistic targets within their USSOCOM/USMC mission statement were conducted. Evaluators from HQMC were on hand to view the exercise

and recorded it as an impressive success. Exactly one year from the date of finalizing the mission statement, table of equipment composition and manpower slate, the Detachment received its first warning order on a simulated target. The precision and cohesiveness of the Det's personnel during the attack of such a target, was truly impressive.

While under tents in the lower Sierra Desert, they planned two full mission profiles. These profiles were designed to be tougher than the hardest of MEU(SOC) TRUE EX/SOC Ex targets. The men performed as expected, "flawlessly" and USSOCOM will be receiving a well thought out, SOF-like force that they can be proud of.

This "Raider" like unit is the first of its kind since the original "Raiders" were formed. Designed for a specific purpose to compliment USSOCOM roles and missions, this unit will prove to be a force multiplier if the Corps allows it to continue on track. Their emblem now bears the Raider insignia with the number "1" behind the Raider shield. The "1" represents the first Detachment, no news yet on plans for a Det 2.

Hopefully, our Nation's Leaders will see that the Marine Corps has a long history of such capabilities and a very capable SOF composition to offer in a time when SOF is in need of expansion.





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:

Robert Gorman FRA # 0938

Clifford Grunwald FRA #2535

William Lovelace FRA # 0179

Glen Phelps FRA # 2258

Ed Wissler FRA # 0602

You Will Be Missed and Never Forgotten.



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 (208) 344-9394

Executive Director's
 (209) 607-6961

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 teaguep@idvs.state.id.us

To the Executive Director
 Sasser@starband.net

To the CommChief
 Commchief@Forcerecon.com

We're on the Web!

See us at:

www.ForceRecon.com

Back Page Info

The Sit Rep has a new look. I'm extremely sorry it took so long to get the first issue all together this year. I have been traveling in support of our recon units, continuing the CMC "Fix Recon" effort, the MC SOCOM Det development and tons of other tasks.

It will be 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 cut and paste them from that format 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 or
SettelenJG@hqmc.usmc.mil

MGySgt Joe Settelen #1576

PS: Don't forget annual dues keep us going! We would love to be able to return to a robust, profitable organization that can afford to mail out the "Sit Rep" as well as post it to the Internet. Right now times are lean and we cannot afford both.

I realize many of you are busy with life's little twists and turns. However, if you are interested in helping with the "Sit Rep", contact me during working hours (east coast time) at (703)692-4304. I welcome any and all assistance.

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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