

# SITREP FORCE RECON ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

01 July 2004

Volume 14, Issue 2

*“Link Forever Those Who Served Together”*

### Special Interest Articles:

- RECON 2004 New Orleans
- Letter from your “President”.
- Letter from your “Executive Director”
- Letter from our Ladies.
- 2004 Guest Speaker Bio “Maj James Capers Jr”
- RECON 2003 After Action Report. General Membership Minutes. (Last Sit Rep was Executive Minutes.)
- FRA Balance Sht & P&L
- Reunion 2004 Registration Form.

### Individual Sit Reps & Highlights:

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*Four Points Sheraton*



## RECON 2004 New Orleans !!

Its just about that time folks! This year will be the 25th Anniversary meeting of the Force Recon Association (FRA). The reunion plans are finalized. The week long event will be held at the Four Points Sheraton from 13-19 September, 2004 in NEW ORLEANS! This is a town known to provide fun for all and fun in every type. Dinner, dancing, jazz, cabarets, sunset river cruises, shopping, you name it, it can be found in New Orleans.

The advance party (Wayne Pilny and Julian Tedder) have finished up the advanced preparations. The hotel has been set and is providing us with fantastic support. Our hospitality rooms will be better than ever this year. So please dig out your old recon teammates and link up at the designated rally point. Come one come all, so we can renew old friendships, make new ones, and pass on to our next generation reconnaissance Marines our friendship, stories and history.

You can make reservations with Four Points Sheraton

Resort by calling toll free at 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 total 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.

Driving directions are pretty easy.

If heading east on I-10 as if coming from Baton Rouge, take exit 225, make left on Veterans Boulevard and the hotel is on the right.

If heading west on I-10 as if coming from Biloxi Mississippi, then follow I-10 towards New Orleans, take the Veterans Boulevard, exit 225, make the left on Veterans and the hotel is on the right.

The events schedule is pretty firm at this point. There will be plenty to do. Here is what we have so far:

Monday, Sept 13th 2004

0700 - 2200 CHECK IN

Tuesday, Sept 14th 2004

0600 - 1300 Golf Tourney

Wednesday, Sept 15th

1100 - 1400 Mississippi Lunch Cruise

Thursday, Sept 16th

0800 - 1300 WW II Museum Visit

1400 - 1600 Executive Board Members Mtg

Friday, Sept 17th

0730 – Until Complete Board of Directors Mtg

## RECON 2004 New Orleans Louisiana



Four Points Sheraton




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*"Get an early start preparing for the next FRA gathering. Make your reservations now! Our next Reunion is going to be held in New Orleans from 13-19 September 2004!"*

### Saturday, Sept 18th

0730 - 0900 Walk, Crawl Run 5K

0900-1100 Scholarship Auction

1100 - 1330 General Membership Mtg with HQMC Recon Road Map Brief by MGySgt Joe Settelen

1100 - 1400 Ladies Club Luncheon.

1730 - 1900 Cocktails  
1900 - TBD for Memorial Banquet/Dancing.

### Sunday, Sept 19th

0700-1100 Farewell Brunch

Remember, you can check in early to the hotel if you plan ahead, up to 10 nights at the FRA price! That gives you the weekend before the reunion for some fun of your own and some down time for recovery on the back end if you can swing it.

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

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 one for the Hootch.

We will be able to staff the room as always, with our own collection of drinks which the FRA will cover at the start up and then ask that you "Feed the Kitty" from there on out.

The registration forms have been mailed to all current members. If you did not receive one it may be because your address is not updated, or the mail service screwed up, or possibly that you rolled to an inactive members status and we have lost contact with you. You can download a reunion registration form from the the FRA website at [www.ForceRecon.com](http://www.ForceRecon.com).

Once the page comes up click on the link that says Reunion Registration Form 2004. Print it out, fill in what you want to do and send it and the payment for desired events to the address at the bottom of the first page.

It's important you fill out both pages so we can get together your name badges and those of any of your guests. So please get those forms back to us by 15 August!

Major James Capers Jr. will be our guest of honor and speaker at the Annual Banquet Ball. He has accepted and his bio is attached on page 6 of this Sit Rep.

Many of you already know Major Capers, but for those who do not, his career and impact on the reconnaissance community through his many deep recon missions is still talked by active duty General Officers who served during the Vietnam War.

This event is shaping up to be a very big event and we sure hope to have a large turn out. So far, it is looking to be a grand event. So do not wait to long to get those registration forms mailed in and reservations made to guarantee a smooth adventure.

If you have any questions feel free to contact your President Pat Teagues or your Executive Director Dick Sasser. They can answer your questions and if they can't, they can contact the reunion planning team and gain any additional details and get back to you.

One last note...if you're going to play in the golf tourney please contact Wayne Pilny at (419-797-4348) or Julian Tedder at (208-850-5033) so they can get those numbers firmed up. They need accurate numbers early enough to coordinate with the Golf Course for the T-time reservations.

*Semper Fi* and we hope to see you in New Orleans!



## Letter from your "PRESIDENT"

Members,

Just a short note encouraging all you Recon men to attend our Annual Recon Reunion in New Orleans this year. It is promising to be a "Jim Dandy," and will give you a chance to renew old friendships and make new ones. Wayne Pilny and Julian Tedder have secured a nice location at a working man's price for this reunion. I have long maintained that if you give the troops a great hospitality room where they can meet, tell war stories, and have an adult beverage or two, then the location was a success. We are going to have a great hospitality room at the hotel, and I think those of you who partake will appreciate it.

By the time you read this, you should have received your letter from our Executive Director, Dick Sasser, with a form to complete for the reunion. If you plan on attending, please get this form back to Dick ASAP, as it makes it much easier to coordinate the events we plan on having. Speaking of Dick...what a great job he's been doing with everything that goes along with planning a reunion. He has put in many hours, as has Pat, with no pay from our organization. That is dedication and commitment, shipmates. This year at our business meeting we will elect some new Board Members, and I would like to see more of you step up to the plate and put your names in the hat.

I would be remiss if I did not mention Bruce Meyers, who has been our secretary for a number of years now and has done a superb job keeping our records and minutes. Also, Joe Settelen for doing the Sit Rep, which is no easy task, especially if you are still on active duty with all that is going on in the world today. From all of us, THANK YOU!

See you in New Orleans,

Pat Teague #0038  
President FRA 04/05

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## Letter from your "Executive Director"

Members,

Thanks to all those Members who have paid their 2004 dues and beyond. To all those who have not paid their dues, in order to carry a challenge coin and FRA membership card on your person, your dues must be paid to be a member in good standing.

If you are going to the reunion in New Orleans, please send in your registration form ASAP and make those hotel reservations ASAP as well. This will help with the advance preparations and is deeply appreciated.

We have some great "Raffle Prizes" lined up for our reunion. 1<sup>st</sup> prize is a 5 day free stay at the Sheraton Four Corners, New Orleans anytime within the next year. 2<sup>nd</sup> is a JVC Digital Video Camera. 3<sup>rd</sup> is a GPX 5" TV with AM/FM Radio and CD/CD-R player.

I look forward to seeing all of you in New Orleans!

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 remind all the FRA members and our Lady Club members that the annual Ladies Scholarship Raffle will be held on Saturday, September 18<sup>th</sup> at the reunion Hotel Headquarters in New Orleans. We are looking for any and all military memorabilia or other appropriate items for the raffle. The funds from the raffle go into the ladies scholarship fund, so it is all for a worthy cause. We are still in need of additional items, so please search around for those special treasures you may want to bring to help raise money for our event. Our Ladies Club President, Beth Rubenfeld, has already informed me that she will be bringing a beautiful pendant to be raffled so we are off to a good start.

We are told that this year's reunion will be a large one, with a separate ladies gathering place 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, just a gathering and a luncheon of the FRA wives and lady guests, so please find us once you check into the hotel. We should be a stones throw away from the "Hootch".

Lastly, we would like to send our heartfelt prayers out to Chuck Ascher. For those of you who may not know of his loss, his wife Dottie, who was a great helping hand in the Ladies Club, passed away this year. She will be missed by all.

Ladies, we look forward to seeing all of you in New Orleans! There will be plenty of things we can do with and without our men around. And again, search around for some memorable treasures and we will see you soon!

Kim Settelen  
Ladies Club Secretary



## Guest Speaker 2004 Reunion Major James Capers Jr (USMC Ret)

Major Capers entered the Marine Corps in 1956. Upon completion of Recruit Training, Infantry Training Regiment, Major Capers was assigned to 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion, 2d Marine Division. During his three-year tour, Major Capers completed several overseas deployments to include Mediterranean and Caribbean Cruises and in 1958, participated in the United States Amphibious Operation in Beirut, Lebanon. Major Capers was transferred to Marine Corps Base, Camp Pendleton in 1959, and after a tour with Brig Company, Headquarters and Service Battalion, he volunteered for duty with 1<sup>st</sup> Force Reconnaissance Company, 1<sup>st</sup> Marine Division and was subsequently deployed to Okinawa, Japan as a Sergeant with the Company's Pathfinder Platoon.

In 1963, Major Capers was assigned to Marine Corps Base, Camp Lejeune, where he served as instructor and troop handler at the Infantry Training Regiment. Major Capers was transferred in 1963 to Marine Barracks Fort Meade, Maryland where he served until 1965.

Major Capers volunteered for duty in Southeast Asia with the newly formed 3<sup>rd</sup> Force Reconnaissance Company, 3<sup>rd</sup> Marine Division. He was promoted to Staff Sergeant in February 1966 and in November was awarded a battlefield commission to Second Lieutenant. During his tour in Vietnam, Major Capers participated in 64 long-range reconnaissance and combat patrols, many of these patrols originated in and around the firebase Khe San. He led a team of divers on a ship bottom search of the *USS Boxer* in Nha Trang Harbor with the mission to search and find explosives and saboteurs.

Major Capers participated in 5 major campaigns and Operation Double Talk, in which his patrol attempted to rescue POW's being held in a prison camp behind enemy lines. Upon arrival, the prison had been evacuated, but the camp was destroyed by the patrol and Major Capers received the Bronze Star and Purple Heart for his actions.

In 1967, as a result of hostile action on a long-range reconnaissance patrol behind enemy lines in Phuloc, Vietnam, Major Capers was wounded and medically evacuated to Japan. Because of the seriousness of his wounds he was evacuated to Bethesda Naval Hospital in Maryland. Major Capers remained a patient at Bethesda until September 1967. He was released to light duty and assigned as Guard Officer at National Security Agency, Marine Barracks, Fort Meade. While at Fort Meade, Major Capers was chosen "The Poster Marine" for a Marine Corps recruiting campaign "Ask A Marine."

Major Capers received orders to Sea Duty and served aboard the *USS Wasp* as Executive Officer of the Marine Detachment. Upon completion of Sea Duty, Major Capers received orders to 1<sup>st</sup> Marine Brigade, Hawaii, where he served as Director of Brigade Schools and the Leadership Academy. He was promoted to the rank of Captain in December 1970.

Major Capers returned to the continental United States in 1973 to attend Amphibious Warfare School at Quantico, Virginia. After graduation, he was assigned as Commanding Officer "Golf" Company, 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion, 2<sup>nd</sup> Marines, 2<sup>nd</sup> Marine Division. On June 30<sup>th</sup>, 1975, Major Capers was assigned as Executive Officer, 2<sup>nd</sup> Force Reconnaissance Company and later assumed command on June 22<sup>nd</sup>, 1976. Major Capers was promoted to the rank of Major on July 1<sup>st</sup>, 1977. He retired from United States military service in November 1978.

Major Capers is a graduate of Amphibious Warfare School, US Army Airborne School, US Navy Scuba School, FBI Special Weapons and Tactics School, Jump Master School, Demolitions School, Jungle Warfare School, Physical Fitness Academy, Dive Master, Red Cross Basic and Advance Water Schools, Escape and Evasion Survival School, Honor Graduate of NBC and NCO School. He has completed Special Forces Operations Extension Courses in: Counterinsurgency Operations and Physiological Operations at US Army Special Warfare School. He received numerous Honors Certificates and completed (20) MCI Course over his career.

Major Capers personal decorations and awards include, Bronze Star with Gold Star and Combat V, Purple Heart with Two Gold Stars, Vietnam Cross of Gallantry, Joint Service Commendation Medal, Combat Action Ribbon, Good Conduct Medal with Two Bronze Stars, (3) Battle Stars, Navy Commendation Medal, Navy Achievement Medal, Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal, National Defense Service Medal, CG Certificate of Merit, CINC PAC Letter of Merit, (2) Letters of Appreciation and (2) Letters of Commendation.

Upon retirement, Major Capers served as a Vice President of Jefferson Pilot Corporation, President of Echo Broadcasting Company, President of V&J Enterprises, Board of Director NC State Telecommunications Commission and the Chairman of Southeast Chapter of March of Dimes. Major Capers has served in a variety of local humanitarian, charity and civic positions as well.

Born in Bishopville, South Carolina, the son of a sharecropper, the Capers' family moved to Baltimore, Maryland where Major Capers graduated from Carver Vocational Technical High School. His formal education includes University of Maryland and Chaminde University of Hawaii. He attended the National Broadcasters, Radio and Television Managers Seminar, Harvard University for his advanced studies.

Major Capers is married to the former Miss Dorothy Lee Green of Baltimore, Maryland and had one son Mr. Gary Wayne Capers deceased. He currently resides in Jacksonville, North Carolina.

## From the FRA Secretary

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

#### Luncheon and General Membership Meeting Minutes

August 30, 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.") Rubenfeld, # 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)

#### **GENERAL MEMBERSHIP** All those present at FRA 2003 Hawaii

Following a Hawaiian Invocation given by Billy Arnellis (SP?), a former member of 6<sup>th</sup> Force Recon, the meeting commenced.

1. **Quorum.** A quorum being present, Pres. Dick Sasser called the meeting to order at 1135 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.

**Executive Director's Report.** Executive Director Dr. 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 There are 1,531 inactive members who have lapsed in their dues payment. All those that have not paid dues since 2002, have been made inactive.

**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.**

**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 ,  
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, # 1100)

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. Budda, Univ.  
Of Hawaii, Biological Science (daughter of FRA Member Robert F. Budda, # 1220).

Dr. Lingenfelter urged nomination by members of those eligible to apply for Scholarships.

The general membership **Moved/Seconded and Passed** a motion to accept the recommendations of the Scholarship Committee.

**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, a Transaction Detail by Account. Explanation was made on the consolidation of accounts following transfer from the former Executive Director as well as the former MEU Scholarship moneys.



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. The FRA Profit and Loss Statement shows a “profit” of \$ 588.66 for the year. (Secretary’s Comment: This is too close to the line. We need to get past dues and current dues paid. It costs a certain amount of money to run your FRA and we need some operating funds).

Following review of the Treasurer’s Report it was:

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

The Membership gave retiring Treasurer George Saitta a standing ovation.

**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 continuation of the Disciplinary Board (10 Members) as presently constituted.

Nominations were received from the floor. For the Board of Directors, and the following additional candidates for the Board were nominated: David Neoukuku, Ed McCourt and Jim Isom.

The Women’s Club reported their election of the following officers: President – Beth Rubenfeld; Vice President – Lauri Kowalski; Secretary – Anita Torres; Treasurer – Nancy Teague.

Written ballots were distributed:

*The Membership voted on the proposed slate and those nominated from the floor.*

*Luncheon was served at 1203. This was a break in the conduct of the Annual General Membership Meeting.*

*Master Gunnery Sergeant Joe Settelen, the Senior Recon Marine of the Corps, (Currently Marine Air Ground Task Force Operations Chief at HQMC*

*MGySgt Settelen made several presentations on “Current Status of Recon in the ‘Corps” (consolidated here for the Secretary’s writing of the minutes):*

1. **Marine Corps Diving.** The current training structure and assignment of Marine Corps Combatant Divers was given with background on the history of Marine Corps Diving. He explained the current sequence of training for all Marine divers
2. **Current policies.** current Marine Corps policies with respect to recon were highlighted. There are presently 368 Force Recon Marines while there are 1261 Recon Battalion Marines. (Thus, FRA needs to keep the Associate Membership limitations or there will be an inundation of FRA by the larger gene pool of the Recon Battalion).
3. **Iraqi Participation.** Settelen provided a clear survey of how recon assets were used in Iraq. This generated a number of positive questions and feedback. In addition, MGySgt Settelen described the Marine Corps participation in “Detachment One” in SpecOps command. There is the possibility of formation of a “Detachment Two” in the future should CMC and CDR USSOCOM desire such.

As an example of the caliber of FR personnel, FR Companies have the highest number of enlisted officer candidates in comparison to all other organizations in the Marine Corps. Force Recon Marines have the highest average of GT scores (121) (even surpassing the air wing electronics wizards), and finally Force Recon Marines have the highest average PT scores of the Marine Corps (273 out of possible 300) and have the highest percentage of their Marines firing Expert, compared to all other organizations in the Marine Corps. Well Done Force Recon Marines!

**Auction for Scholarship.** A small auction (in comparison to prior years) was held for the scholarship funds. These were small items (a Marine Corps blanket, tee shirts etc.) that were brought to Hawaii with the shipment of the Supply Hootch and/or were donated on site. A nominal amount of money was collected.

**Marine Corps Historical Programs.** Colonel John Ripley addressed the Membership briefly, urging members to participate in the oral history program of the History and Museums Division of HQMC. He further briefed the membership on the new museum being built outside the main gate at Quantico,

VA Museums Division of HQMC. He further briefed the membership on the new museum and the good works of the Marine Corps Historical Foundation.

**Vice President Joe Tablada.** Gave recognition and thanks to Capt. Ed. McCourt and SgtMajor Sam Moyer, all residents of Honolulu, who assisted him in arranging for the hotel, tours, Kaneohe visit etc. Joe Tablada urged all the membership to contact their friends to pay their dues as we are in a bind for cash-flow. Tablada reported on the refusal of some members (in the past) to pay their dues or registration for the FRA convention!

**President Sasser Comments.** President Sasser advised of his acceptance of the job as Executive Director, replacing Dr. Wayne Lingenfelter. He outlined the current problems of FRA due to lack of cash-flow. (He agreed to compensation for himself and one but not to receive a salary, aware of our current critical cash-flow problems. The Board will review finances next year at the convention in New Orleans in September 2004 and determine an appropriate salary /bonus). FRA will meet in 2005 in September in the Washington, DC area and in 2006 in the San Diego/Camp Pendleton area.

President Sasser then summarized the actions of the Combined Executive Committee and the Attending Board of Directors which, upon the strong recommendations of the outgoing Executive Director, instituted the following corrective measures:

1. The Sit Reps will now be “Electronically” distributed on the FRA website. Hard copies to be mailed to all who do not have web access and request them This step alone should save FRA in the vicinity of \$ 10,000 per year.
2. The Combined Executive Committee/Board of Directors rejected raising Annual dues from the present \$ 25 and rejected a proposed initiation fee of \$ 25. They did accept Dr. Lingenfelter’s recommendation to assess a “Reinstatement Fee” for those in arrears. A graded reinstatement fee suggested by Incoming President Pat Teague was adopted which will assess an in-arrears member \$ 25 per year in arrears plus the annual membership. Thus a member one year in arrears would pay the annual dues plus a reinstatement fee of \$ 25. A member 2 years in arrears would pay \$ 50 (a total of \$ 75) and any member three or more years would pay a total of \$ 100 for reinstatement. The maximum of dues and reinstatement fees would stay constant at \$ 100.
3. With respect to the Supply Hootch, 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” purchase system which will reduce the amount of inventory having to be kept on hand for orders as needed. (This will copy such currently methods used in merchandising and industry).

If the 323 members now in arrears were to pay their \$ 25, this would bring in over \$ 9,000, which would help in our current cash-flow problem.

**Future FRA Rosters.** President Sasser introduced the new binder of the membership roster for our membership. We will use the Special Operations Association Roster Binder format. It is estimated to cost about \$ 4,000, but only when we can afford to do it.

**By-Laws Changes.** President Dick Sasser outlined the problem of Associate Members. With respect to voting and holding of office. We are going to institute a by-law change to clarify that Associate Members of FRA do not have the right to vote or hold office. Secondly, there will be an addition to definitions, to define "Member in Good Standing." This will affirm the right of members in good standing to vote and hold office but all dues must be current and up to date. Look for these proposed by-law changes in the Spring..

**GySgt. Walt Reinhard Yosemite Search.** Jim Isom briefed the Association on the tremendous efforts by FRA in coordinating and executing a five-day search of the mountains of Yosemite for GySgt. Walt Reinhard who was missing on a back packing trip into the mountains of Yosemite. The support of Marine helicopters and the staff and troops from the Marine Corps Mountain Warfare Training Center at Pickle Meadows was described.

### **FRA Sponsorship of Capt. LaVoy D. McVey Memorial Service**

Members of the Capt. McVey family approached FRA to assist in having a memorial service for their father. When KIA in Vietnam in March 1970, the only service held was local within the Recon Battalion. Being a member of 2<sup>nd</sup> Force, our FRA felt he deserved a fitting service. A chapel and chaplain were arranged, a color guard, bagpiper and bugler were obtained, and flags were presented. FRA Thanks to MSgt. Larry Keene and Bruce Meyers for handling this on behalf of the Association.

**Election Results.** President Sasser announced the results of the FRA election.:

President	Pat Teague
Vice President	Wayne Pilny
President Elect	Joe Settelen
Secretary	Bruce Meyers
Treasurer	J. J. Rubenfeld

New Members of Board of Directors (5 usual and one to replace Joe Settelen who was elected as President Elect):

Joe Tablada, Wayne Lingfelter, Jess Wise, Bob Zwiener, George Saitte,  
& James "The Mac" McKee

Board Members who still have one year include:

Allan Bierline, Charles Buchholz, Andy Christianson,  
Nelson Donley, Joe Settelen

All present members of the Disciplinary Board were continued for one-year.

**Tribute to Retiring President Dick Sasser (and his bride to be Pat):** A standing ovation and thanks of the FRA Membership were given to Retiring President Dick Sasser for his dedicated and masterful leadership of the FRA through some difficult times. Well Done Marine!

**Team Leader Awards.** The nominees and units to receive the award at the Banquet are as follows:

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

**Motion to Adjourn.**

A motion was **Made/Seconded and Passed to Adjourn.** We adjourned at 1300 hours.

Respectfully submitted,

Bruce F. Meyers, # 007  
Secretary of FRA

## Recon 2004 Financial Statement Balance Sheet

### FORCE RECON ASSOCIATION

### Balance Sheet

As of ~~March~~ 31 2004

05/16/04

ASSETS	
Current Assets	
Checking/Savings	
BANK OF STOCKTON OPERATING	6,160.43
BANK OF STOCKTON RESTRICTED	7,963.98
CASH A/C	40.00
CHECKING UNION BANK	77.01
MEU FUND	5,943.00
SCHOLARSHIP 0875	7,869.00
SCHOLARSHIP 4428	13,893.00
SCHOLARSHIP 6153	751.00
Total Checking/Savings	42,697.42
Other Current Assets	
INVENTORY	3,000.00
Total Other Current Assets	3,000.00
Total Current Assets	45,697.42
Fixed Assets	
FURNITURE & FIXTURES	
Depreciation	-6,873.00
Original Cost	7,711.00
Total FURNITURE & FIXTURES	838.00
Total Fixed Assets	838.00
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>	<b>46,535.42</b>
LIABILITIES & EQUITY	
Equity	
Opening Bal Equity	39,660.00
Net Income	6,875.42
Total Equity	46,535.42
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES &amp; EQUITY</b>	<b>46,535.42</b>

**Executive Director Note:** Inventory of "Hootch" is \$13,000.00 not \$3000.00. MEU Scholarship fund has been dissolved. Corrections will noted and adjusted at Annual Executive Board Meeting and 2004 Reunion Minutes.



## Recon 2004 Financial Statement Profit and Loss Sheet

05/16/04

### FORCE RECON ASSOCIATION Profit and Loss October 1, 2003 through ~~MAR 31~~ 2004

Oct 1, '03 - MAR 31 04

Ordinary Income/Expense	
Income	
Contributions Income	320.00
Membership Dues	18,322.00
MEMORABILIA SALES	7,489.05
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>26,131.05</b>
Expense	
Bank Service Charges	187.06
Contributions	100.00
Mem.purchases	3,791.78
memorabilia shipping	238.06
Miscellaneous	620.66
Office Supplies	1,414.88
Postage and Delivery	1,226.83
Printing and Reproduction	275.74
Professional Fees	
Accounting	1,275.00
<b>Total Professional Fees</b>	<b>1,275.00</b>
RECON 2003	1,574.61
RECON 2004	2,089.58
Repairs	
Computer Repairs	938.40
<b>Total Repairs</b>	<b>938.40</b>
SATELLITE	480.00
SCHOLARSHIP	3,000.00
Telephone	1,943.03
Utilities	
Gas and Electric	100.00
<b>Total Utilities</b>	<b>100.00</b>
<b>Total Expense</b>	<b>19,255.63</b>
<b>Net Ordinary Income</b>	<b>6,875.42</b>
<b>Net Income</b>	<b>6,875.42</b>

**REGISTRATION FORM**

*Please Print Clearly*

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

FRA Member#: \_\_\_\_\_

**Registration Fee:**

This pays the administrative costs as well as the costs of shipping the "Hootch" items to New Orleans and Room costs for the Check-In/Hootch room and the Hospitality Suite, also the initial set-up of refreshments in the Hospitality Suite.

\$55.00

**Cost**

\$ \_\_\_\_\_

**Optional RECON 2004 Activities**

<u>Day</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>Activity</u>	<u>Cost Per Person</u>	<u>X</u>	<u># of Persons</u>	
<b><u>Tuesday</u></b> 9/14/04		<b>Golf Tournament</b>	\$ <u>Unknown</u>	X	# _____	\$ _____
Contact Wayne Pilny 419-797-4348 or <a href="mailto:wspilney@thirdplanet.net">wspilney@thirdplanet.net</a> – Or call Julian Tedder 208-850-5033						
<b><u>Wednesday</u></b> 9/15/04	1100-1400	<b>Mississippi Cruise</b>	\$ <u>45.00</u>	X	# _____	\$ _____
Includes Lunch and Transportation						
<b><u>Thursday</u></b> 9/16/04	0800	<b>WWII Museum &amp; 4 hr. Tour of New Orleans</b>	\$ <u>65.00</u>	X	# _____	\$ _____
Includes Lunch and Transportation						
<b><u>Friday</u></b> 9/17/04		<b>Free Day &amp; Evening</b>	\$ <u>0.00</u>	X	# _____	\$ <u>0.00</u>
<b><u>Saturday</u></b> 9/18/04	0700	<b>Walk/Crawl.Run</b>	\$ <u>15.00</u>	X	# _____	\$ _____
	0900-1100	<b>Scholarship Auction</b>	<b>Determined Individually At Event</b>			
	1100-1400	<b>General Membership Meeting(Lunch)</b>	\$ <u>25.00</u>	X	# _____	\$ _____
	1100-1400	<b>Ladies Club Luncheon</b>	\$ <u>25.00</u>	X	# _____	\$ _____
	1800-2300	<b>Banquet &amp; Dancing</b>	\$ <u>45.00</u>	X	# _____	\$ _____
	Dinner Selection	# _____ Beef	# _____ Pork	# _____ Chicken		
<b><u>Sunday</u></b> 9/19/04	0700-1100	<b>Farewell Brunch</b>	Pay direct to hotel			

**Total Amount Enclosed:**

\$ \_\_\_\_\_

Please mail this form with payment by August 15, 2004 to: FRA P.O. Box 783, Angels Camp, CA 95222

**Recon 2004 Registration Form  
New Orleans!**

**Check all Recon units in which you served**

	WWII Amphib Recon			Korea Div Recon Co.
	1 <sup>st</sup> Amphib Recon Co.			
	2 <sup>nd</sup> Amphib Recon Co.			1 <sup>st</sup> Recon Bn.
	3 <sup>rd</sup> Amphib Recon Co.			2 <sup>nd</sup> Recon Bn.
				3 <sup>rd</sup> Recon Bn.
	Marine Corps Test Unit #1			4 <sup>th</sup> Recon Bn.
				5 <sup>th</sup> Recon Bn.
	1 <sup>st</sup> Force Recon Co.			
	2 <sup>nd</sup> Force Recon Co.			UDT/SEAL
	3 <sup>rd</sup> Force Recon Co.			
	4 <sup>th</sup> Force Recon Co.			Other:
	5 <sup>th</sup> Force Recon Co.			
	6 <sup>th</sup> Force Recon Co.			
	13 <sup>th</sup> Force Recon Co.			

**Name Tag Information**

**Member**

Member #: \_\_\_\_\_

Nickname: \_\_\_\_\_

First Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Middle Initial: \_\_\_\_\_

Last Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Home Town: \_\_\_\_\_

Home State: \_\_\_\_\_

**Guest #1**

First Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Middle Initial: \_\_\_\_\_

Last Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Home Town: \_\_\_\_\_

Home State: \_\_\_\_\_

**Guest #2**

First Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Middle Initial: \_\_\_\_\_

Last Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Home Town: \_\_\_\_\_

Home State: \_\_\_\_\_

**Guest #3**

First Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Middle Initial: \_\_\_\_\_

Last Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Home Town: \_\_\_\_\_

Home State: \_\_\_\_\_

**Additional Guests, please furnish information on a separate piece of paper**



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

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

by MSgt Patrick M. Whelan, Operations Chief

Following 1<sup>st</sup> Force's return from OIF, the Company's OPTEMPO quickly picked up. 3<sup>rd</sup> Platoon (Maj White, GySgt Horan) returned to CONUS with 15<sup>th</sup> MEU (SOC), while 2d Platoon (1<sup>st</sup>Lt Opalski, GySgt Evans) began unit training for deployment with 11<sup>th</sup> MEU. 1st Platoon (Capt Hudson, GySgt Rummell) started individual training phase for MEU deployment as well. 4<sup>th</sup> Platoon (Capt Galvin, GySgt Wilson) remains forward deployed with 13<sup>th</sup> MEU (SOC) while 5th Platoon (Capt Harriman, GySgt Eystone) 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 1<sup>st</sup> MAW, Okinawa, Japan. Capt Komnick joined as the new communications/Electronic Officer from Newport, RI. Capt Graczyk joined the Company as the S3A from 7<sup>th</sup> Marine Regiment. MSgt Whelan (Operations Chief) joined from Marine Security Guard duty, and GySgt Rohn (Training Chief) joined from 4<sup>th</sup> Force Recon Co, Hawaii.

1<sup>st</sup> 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 1<sup>st</sup> 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 (Continued)

2<sup>nd</sup> 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.

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

5<sup>th</sup> 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 5<sup>th</sup> 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 Niewenhous, 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 4<sup>th</sup> Force Recon Co Marines activated for OIF are expected to demobilize during October 03.

Semper Fi!



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

We continue training for our up and coming deployments to relieve our brothers 1st Force ISO OIF-II. The regular workups continue as we are branching in other directions in order to satisfy additional requirements. To say the least we are staying busy. To name just a few of the highlights:

2d Force recently completed a Company deployment to MCAS Yuma where 3rd platoon, Capt Moder And GySgt Frank Mercer, trained with WTI, while we had 4th platoon conduct training at Yuma Proving Grounds. In conjunction with the WTI class the Marines from our Company dropped a total of 160,000 lbs of ordnance, (that's a lot of bombs). The platoons did a remarkable job with ID of targets and introducing "our business as usual" MSids to the pilots, crews and staffs. We were able to get our Marines in a "Desert Mindset" away from the lowlands of Camp LeJeune and get them some time driving, shooting and communicating from their vehicles. 4th platoon took advantage of the time to get their SOPs down and refine their skills with their newly formed platoon. Heading 4th platoon up is Capt Schauble and GySgt McDermott. To maximize the location of training and weather, we also conducted MC-5 parachute transition course at Coolidge, AZ. However it was cut short due to minor glitches but were able to finish up the transition course here locally which we aren't able to do that often because of the training areas and limited air space. Thanks go out to the GySgt Ed Walsh and the Airborne Mobile Training Team from Quatico, VA for their persistence and assistance. The exercises and experience the Marines gained will be put to good use in our future endeavors.

22 MEU with Capt "Task Force Buffa", MSgt Crews and the rest of the guys from 1st platoon are doing good things as they are deployed to OEF. If you had been monitoring the CNN channels you may have seen them. They will soon be back underway and be returning home in the near future.

24 MEU has 2d platoon attached and Capt Douglas along with GySgt Scotty Reid have their platoon packing their rucks to head out for their next deployment. They have completed their training cycle with SOTG and are ready to put the training to use.

All Marines in the company are, in some form or fashion, working in support of one of the many deployments that are coming up in the near future. They too are also deploying in support of OIF - II. They have been doing well in the areas of Convoy Ops, firing all weapon systems organic to the company. These guys are doing a tremendous job as well as conducting their normal day to day business in order to get the Company out the door.



## 2nd Force Reconnaissance Company (Continued)

Capt Johnson and GySgt Coleman are putting 5th platoon together to continue in their Unit Training Phase before they chop early next year. Presently they are getting some much needed schools completed.

We welcome home GySgt "Evil Al" Gardner and his team from their 6 month deployment. He told me I couldn't put anything else in here about his deployment.....But welcome back anyway.

We welcome 2 platoons from 3rd Force Recon out of Mobile for our future deployment. They came on board the beginning of June and have hit the ground running. They have been busy getting the latest data dumps from the local units conducting vehicle operations, land nav, medical and communications training. Happy to have them aboard for the next several months. Heading up these platoons are Capt Anglin and SSgt Sutton, 7th Platoon and 8th Platoon has Capt Parker along with SSgt Patterson.

This summer not only do we have a full plate with the deployments but we have a number of Marines moving on. Recently, ol' Salts GySgt "Fast Eddie" Dristle and MSgt Dennis Freeland both retired, but we know neither one will ever drop their ruck. You can surely bet they are somewhere working some "shady Ops". We said good-bye to SgtMaj Bly and welcomed in SgtMaj Dick Ashton and his family.

Our Executive Officer Major John Christopher will move on to Naval War College in Rhode Island. Assuming the XO job is Maj Ukeiley. He is coming from MOI duty at Iowa State. We welcome him and his family into the community.

On 8 July we will say farewell to our current C.O. LtCol James Reilly III and welcome LtCol Pete Petronzio. LtCol Reilly will be heading to III SOTG in Okinawa. We wish him and his family the best in their future assignment.

It has been a busy year for the company. All the sections are working hard to get the personnel strength to where it should be and obtain the gear it takes to insert these guys and sustain them. It couldn't be accomplished without the high caliber of Marines that have requested to be a part of the family.

Once deployed we will attempt to stay in comms with MGySgt Joe Settelen and his replacement MGySgt Ron Weatherbee (glad he is finally getting a job) with a SitRep from OIF to keep all abreast with the latest.

Until then Semper Fi.



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

2004 has been an eventful and rewarding year for 3<sup>rd</sup> Force Reconnaissance Company. The value of many years of aggressive and realistic training has been realized with the mobilization of the majority of the Company.

While the Company "flag" remains in Mobile, Alabama, Col. Chris Roosa anticipated the shifting nature of reconnaissance operations in the Middle East and emphasized Company training readiness, communications and mobile reconnaissance during his tenure before relinquishing command in November of 2003. His successor, LtCol. Mike Visconage, has directed the activation and support of our Marines and their families as they mobilized and/or departed for operations overseas. LtCol. Visconage, Maj Jack O'Toole (I&I) and 1stSgt John Halpin (I&I) recently returned from a Command visit to our deployed platoon(+) attached to 1<sup>st</sup> Force in Iraq. All report that motivation remains high and the Marines are loving life, giving the enemy hell, and winning over the civilian populace.

Early in January, a Platoon(+) capably led by Capt. Jeff Moore and GySgt Dean, joined 1<sup>st</sup> Force Reconnaissance Company for deployment to Operation Iraqi Freedom II.1. The platoon was supplemented with a Headquarters element and continues to provide support to RCT-7 in Western Iraq. L/Cpl Lemons, injured by an IED and medevaced to CONUS, will receive his purple heart on July 3<sup>rd</sup> in Mobile, AL. We are pleased to report he is well on the way to a full recovery and will soon be back in the harness. Two other Marines in the Company have received less serious wounds and were able to return to duty shortly after being injured; these Marines also qualified to receive the Purple Heart.

Early in June, two Platoons led by Capts Worth Parker and Dion Anglin and SSgts Robert Patterson and Bill Sutton linked-up with 2<sup>nd</sup> Force Reconnaissance Company at Camp LeJeune, N.C. to begin final preparation for an upcoming deployment to OIF II.2.

Determined not to be denied an opportunity to get in the fight, H&S Platoon mobilized to support 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion 23<sup>rd</sup> Marines for a similar deployment to OIF II.2. These Marines have supplemented H&S Company 1/23 by assuming a myriad of billets to include STA Platoon Sergeant, Logistics Officer, admin clerk and infantry rifleman.

Meanwhile, back in the rear, 3<sup>rd</sup> Force continues to reconstitute and train reconnaissance Marines for future engagements. We look forward to the safe return of our deployed Marines and wish all fair winds and following seas.

Maj Blair Estep  
XO, 3<sup>rd</sup> Force



## 4th Force Reconnaissance Company Update

The Marines of 4<sup>th</sup> Force Reconnaissance Company (comprised of the Co (-) in Kaneohe Bay, HI and the Detachment in Reno, NV) have been exceptionally busy in their short training year to date.

The members of the company who returned last fall from deployment to OIF I with 1<sup>st</sup> Force Reconnaissance Co. were not required to drill for at least two months beyond their demobilization. This allowed these Marines to integrate themselves back into their civilian lives; re-introduction with families and returning to work their daily jobs.

Upon their return to duty both elements of the company have been considerably busy regaining proficiency with specialized insertion skills. These Marines have executed numerous low-level static line (LLSL) and high altitude-low open (HALO) parachute operations as well as diver refresher training and more than a dozen Combatant Dive Profiles.

In addition, the considerable hard work by those Marines that did not deploy last year is beginning to pay off. Having gained their entry level reconnaissance skills along with attending some core plus, insertion skill formal schools, many of these new Recon Marines have been hard at work on their "green-side" patrolling; both mounted and dismounted.

These newly trained elements have been integrated with those Marines that returned from deployment and have been absorbing their lessons learned from the combat theater. They have conducted several full mission profile (FMP) dismounted patrols, limited scale raids as well as executing weapons and tactics packages. These weapons shoots have involved, limited precision engagement exercises; close quarter battle (CQB) skills, square bay and live fire immediate action (IA) drills.

The FMP actions and weapons and tactics packages have incorporated both entry level and increased proficiency training with the growing number of night optical devices (NODs) and weapons laser aiming devices.

Some of these recently formed tactical elements have been learning all they can about mounted patrolling operations. Mounted operations have their own steep learning curve and these Marines have dedicated a lot of time towards the development of these skills; long range planning for mounted operations; navigation and route planning, fuel consumption, vehicle maintenance, mutual support with fires and supporting dismounted elements to name a few.

### 4th Force Reconnaissance Company (Continued)

Many of these Marines recently completed a dedicated communications training package thus ensuring their effectiveness as reconnaissance Marines. They have worked hard to gain and maintain the requisite skills to effectively operate the communities growing number of complex command and control systems.

With no deployments planned for the company in the near term, these Marines will have a considerable amount of time to perfect their skills in mounted operations. This flexibility in schedule will also afford them the opportunity to work with some of the communities newest sub-surface gear when they support MARCORSYSCOM in gathering some "fresh-water" test data for the sonar "tac-board" and are fielded the new diver propulsion device (DPD) in the late summer months.

Submitted by:

Major Reese S Rogers



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

1st Recon Bn Sit Rep Unavailable at this publishing.

What is known is that the men of 1<sup>st</sup> Reconnaissance Bn are in the process of rotating out from major operations in the Global War on Terror Theater of Operation. They have done a superb job in theater and have been given high accolades from all they have supported. After major engagements in Iraq during the 1<sup>st</sup> go around, they have once again completed another 7+ months in the fight and stuck it to our enemies while doing so. 1<sup>st</sup> Recon Bn lost 1 man, while engaged in numerous combat operations and have experienced less than 20 wounded. Most all wounded men returned to active duty and combat operations. Less than 5 were rotated back to the States for follow on care.

God's Speed Men.

FRA Members Send!



## 2nd Reconnaissance Battalion Update

2<sup>nd</sup> Recon Bn Sit Rep Unavailable at this publishing.

What is known is that the men in 2<sup>nd</sup> Recon Bn are in the process of rotating into the Global War on Terror Theater of Operation to relieve 1<sup>st</sup> Recon Battalion. They are also continuing support to the two MEUs out and one in work up cycle. They are bringing the fight to our enemies.

God's Speed Men.

FRA Members Send!





## 3rd Reconnaissance Battalion

### WHERE THE DIVISION GOES WE'VE BEEN

The battalion continues to train hard and develop the collective skills required of a reconnaissance unit and is prepared to answer it's nations calling. In all aspects of our training we follow the core principles set by the battalion commander; **Professionalism** is all aspects of our being, **Hard feet** - if your feet are hard, you are hard, and the **Gun Fighter mentality** - If you need to pull it, know what you are pulling and how to use it.

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 Long Range Patrolling in the Northern Training Area (referred to by the battalion as the **Harsh lady**), Long Range Communication, Combat Trauma, Amphibious and Combat Diving operations, High and Low level parachuting, Tactical Tracking, and Shooting skills.

Presently the battalion has 2 Platoons deployed with the 31<sup>st</sup> MEU, Alpha Co, 4<sup>th</sup> Platoon and Bravo Co, 1<sup>st</sup> Platoon. Bravo Co, 2<sup>nd</sup> Platoon is currently forward deployed in support of OIF and Alpha Co, 1<sup>st</sup> Platoon is working up for a MEU rotation, while 2<sup>nd</sup> Platoon is in their forming and schools phase.

Battalion training exercises continue with the most recent operations being conducted in the Philippines with the Philippine Recon Marines, Hawaii with the Singaporean Naval Diving Unit and most recently an MC-5 Transition package conducted in Guam. The battalion is now gearing up to head to Thailand for operation Cobra Gold where we will conduct joint training with Bravo Co, 4<sup>th</sup> Recon Bn.

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.

Change of Command for the Battalion will occur during this submission. LtCol George Bristol will turn over command to LtCol Dan Masur. LtCol Masur is coming from the MAGTF Special Operations Section of Deputy Commandant, Plans, Policies and Operations in the Pentagon. LtCol George Bristol will head over to the War at the I MEF, G2. The Battalion has been blessed with two prior reconnaissance Marines as Commanding Officer and this lends to high morale for the men.

"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!



## 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 which are now forward deployed.

The unit is receiving its full compliment taskings and performing missions in support of USSOCOM under direction of NSW Squadron One. The unit has not been without its share of casualties. It has suffered two to date. One requiring medivac back to the states for follow on surgeries (Marine is doing well and made promotion to GySgt on the last list), while the other, a SARIDC Corpsman returned to full duty within a week.

Recently, Mr. Meacham from the Raiders Association has sent a formal request to the Commandant, asking that the unit be directly tied to the Raiders and be the only unit authorized to use the Raiders Insignia. CMC approval and response is pending.

Keep in mind that the unit is a 97 man unit and is basically a special purpose MAGTF missing only an air component to be classified as an official MAGTF. The reconnaissance element and those trained in reconnaissance as secondary MOSs is made up of about 31 men total. So the alignment of the unit with the Raiders will provide the Raiders Association with a next generation of new members to carry on its traditions, history and fighting spirit.

The men assigned to the MC SOCOM Det under the reconnaissance element may or may not have been assigned to a Force Reconnaissance unit prior to assignment to the Detachment.

While it is preferred, during the selection of the recon men for the Det, it was not possible to get all Force Reconnaissance trained men.

This was due to forward deployments with the MEUs, OEF operations and the restructuring of reconnaissance, from the CMC Jones "Fix Ground Reconnaissance" directive. With the creation of the Primary MOS 0321, the training feeds for the reconnaissance battalions is near identical in path of that of Force Recon. What is the key difference is the time in service and seniority of the men in the teams. Most serving in Force Recon will be on their 4<sup>th</sup> year of service or second enlistment, while the battalions are PMOS 0321 BRC, SERE, Airborne and Combatant Diver graduates screened and fed to the battalions in an accession training pipe from School of Infantry screenings held by recon personnel. The only difference between a Force Recon Marine and a Reconnaissance Battalion Marine now Military Freefall training and the assignment of a CQB mission train up when assigned to the MEUs plus seniority. All have the same entry level training feed and as the recon battalions grow they will become the primary feed to Force Recon as the men hit their 3-5 year mark in reconnaissance.

This leaves a decision point to be made at the next FRA reunion. The Board and General Membership need to vote to amend the Bi-Laws to recognize the MC SOCOM Det

reconnaissance personnel as FRA eligible in order to join and be voting members. That covers the highly qualified Sergeant feed that may come from the recon battalions directly to the MC SOCOM Det as a team member in the recon element, and allow him to join and hold office in the future.

The men of the MC SOCOM Detachment await General Hagee's final decision upon return from this deployment as to whether the Corps will continue this force contribution to USSOCOM. All indications are that USSOCOM is satisfied with the capabilities and performance of the men, but the higher function of unit control and the final approvals for continuation, await the final reports from both services to CDR USSOCOM General Brown and CMC General Hagee. Then follow on briefings to Office of the Secretary of Defense on their decision of a relationship.

It seems pretty logical and supportable that the Corps could continue this Detachment rotation and word on the street is that the Corps could field 2 Det's with little or no impact to current Op tempo if needed. Only question is how deep is the rice bowl in SOF, and how hard headed can the Corps be with its specially trained forces?

Hopefully, the Corps will not repeat a 1986 decision loop, and our Nation's Leaders will see that the Marine Corps has a long history of SOF composition to offer. Then direct that the two shall meet in the middle and work along side each other killing our nation's enemies in a time when SOF is in need of expansion and the Corps can offer some of its expertise.



## 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:

Walter Rienhard FRA # 0856

Walt has been missing since last year when he made a hike up through Yosemite Park. While hopeful that we would be reunited, or have more news, that seems to be unlikely now and we send our love and prayers out to the family as we say our goodbyes.

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

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Force Recon  
Association  
P.O. Box 783  
Angels Camp, CA  
95222

President' POCs:  
(208) 334-1245  
(208) 344-9394

Executive Director's  
(209) 607-6961

E-Mail:  
To the FRA President  
teaguep@idvs.state.id.us

To the Executive Director  
Sasser@starband.net

Info To the CommChief  
Steve Luebbert:  
Commchief@Forcerecon.com

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**We're on the Web!**

*See us at:*

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

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## Back Page Info

The Sit Rep has a new look. I'm extremely sorry for only putting out two issues this 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. Still hoping some one will step forward to help with the Sit Rep by sending in articles. I have not received any outside of what I'm writing up and welcome some 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 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](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! 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.

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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