

# SITREP FORCE RECON ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

20 December 2005

Volume 17, Issue 1

*“Link Forever Those Who Served Together”*

## RECON 2005 FREDERICKSBURG, VIRGINIA



## ANOTHER GREAT YEAR !!

### Special Interest Articles:

- RECON 2005 Fredericksburg!
- RECON 2006 Las Vegas!
- Letter from your “President”.
- Letter from your “Executive Director”
- Letter from our Ladies.
- General Membership Mtg Minutes and Elections.
- Some Pictures from the reunion
- MC SOCOM Det Approved!

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Hello everyone! I hope everyone saw the post reunion President’s Letter on the website. It mentioned some of the fantastic results of the Fredericksburg Reunion. If you missed it, it went on perfectly. It was another great reunion in a new place and the hotel and staff did a real nice job of providing for us. We had travelers from all over make it, and we did what we always do, catch up with old friends and make memories.

We also had a wonderful scholarship auction year. The FRA had a ton of auction items and we made our goal for cash awards. We also received a large donation from the Price Foundation, which we added to the awards this year increasing all of them by \$500 each. That makes the awards we present go a lot further as the cost of education has increased quite significantly; while our awards have stayed the same over many years.

The Ladies Auxiliary also gave out a scholarship and their silent auction was a big hit. They easily

met their scholarship goal as well. We are lucky to have them, but you already know that.

As for the reunion, we had over two hundred at the Ball Dinner. We were lucky to have Senior Chief Brenden McMullen from MARCORSYSCOM perform a bag pipes memorial for our fallen. It was a masterful memorial ceremony. The most moving one I have ever attended. We also said goodbye to Pat Teague as our out going President and in with the new. Joe Settelen, your new President, who also does the Sit Rep for FRA, was in attendance and vows to make his two years about getting us all back for a large reunion. The membership voted in the next President, which is Capt Andy Christian after Joe’s two years. So there is some old mixed with the young and in your Executive Directors positions. Just as folks had asked.

The Hooch managed to clear out a lot of older items and came out with a whole new line of new stuff. Not to mention that

Mac, now running the Hooch, has great taste and ideas. He came in with new T-shirts and polo shirt styles, hats and logos that people went crazy for. They are in new colors and on them are the FRA logo or “Force Recon Marine”. Check them out on the web at <http://www.forcerecon.com/supplyhooch/store.asp>. Or click on the “Send Email to Supply Chief” link at the top of the FRA front page to contact Mac. This opens an email note directly to Mac and he can get back with you. Plus, you can download and fill out an order form from the website and send to PO Box 425, Rowe, Ma 01367.

The next reunion is scheduled for Las Vegas folks! So block off Sept 2006 and watch the web site for more details. We want this one to be another big one and get everyone back to a town known for great fun.. Remember we have a lot of young members coming home from combat and your experiences are something they can benefit from. So plan on Las Vegas and come out for some ADVENTURE!



## RECON 2006 Las Vegas, Nevada

OK everyone, get ready for some fun in the city known for all night action and surrounded by adventure. The FRA reunion planners are putting together some hotels and dates for the next FRA reunion in Las Vegas!



That reunion will be designed to host a large group, but we will need your help to get an idea of how many are planning to come out for the event. We will try to keep the hotel upscale but around \$85 bucks.

We will leave in the schedule plenty of time for folks to gamble and have a good time on their own, but also have a few nice events for group attendance. Not to mention the formal Ball Dinner.

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*"Come one come all.  
Recon 2006 promises to  
be another great event.  
Please send us an email  
through the comm. chief to  
let us know if you're  
planning on attending.*

If you have never been to Vegas, the food is always a treat. So you can count on the food being pretty darn good and plentiful. The drinks will be well stocked in the ladies and men's meeting rooms, and in Vegas you can always get a drink for a good price if we do not have what you desire. Even free if you are gambling.

Please send an email to [CommChief@FRA.com](mailto:CommChief@FRA.com) and let him know how many you are thinking about coming. We will use this information in February to negotiate the hotel room blocks for the event.

In order to get the best prices on things, we need a figure on how many are coming or even thinking about coming. So if you think you can keep Sept open until we narrow the dates down after the Feb 2006 site visit, send us an email. We will tally that figure up and try to get us all great deal.

We need an approximate total. The rooms are 2 and 4 person rooms. So let us know and we will keep you informed in the next Sit Rep.

THANKS!



## Letter from your "PRESIDENT"

Hello everyone,

Thanks for the opportunity to serve you as the new President for the Force Recon Association. It is an honor to have been voted from the membership body to represent your association. I will do my very best to keep it going in the direction our founding fathers mapped out for us. I live by the motto this organization has chosen for its charter, "Link forever, those who served together". It is one motto I believe, should be a "Core Value".

I have been coming to FRA events since about 1990 time frame. Certainly, not as long as many of you. In fact I'm pretty much a "boot", maybe even a better described as a "shower shoe" compared to our average membership. As I recall my first reunion, I was ordered to go as a young force recon Staff Sergeant. My mission from the 2d Force CO, put on a static display for FRA in Annapolis, Maryland and make sure it was one they would remember. Well, I have been hooked on the FRA ever since.

Why do I tell you this story? Because I want you to understand what your membership, reunion attendance and friendship means to recon Marines everywhere, whether young or old. While many of our younger members are serving overseas, in a grueling rotation of forces in the Global War on Terror, the ones that do make it to these reunions absolutely need to visit and share their new experiences with you and hear your past experiences. This is what the Corps calls generational transition. It is a passing of the torch in both history and experience from one to another. Something the Marine Corps does better than any other service in my opinion. You, the membership are the key to this transition and information sharing. Even if you share with just one new member what you know and experienced, its effects are far reaching. Like leadership, its end results are not felt until the person departs and that new knowledge and experience is in a position to be used.

So keep that in mind as reunions are planned and announced. Your attendance is the most important part of a successful reunion experience. This year's reunion is going to be in Las Vegas, Nevada and I hope you will mark the month of September off for this event. We will keep updating the web site with details. I ask you, if you know a member that has not been back for awhile, please contact them and let them know the Sit Rep's are on the web now and we would love to see them this year in Las Vegas.

Thank you for your generosity at this past reunion in Fredericksburg, VA. It was an amazing experience for our scholarship winners and I will see you in Las Vegas for another.

Semper Fi,  
Joe Settelen FRA 1576

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## Letter from your "Executive Director"

From: Dick Sasser, Executive Director Force Recon Association

Your president and executive board and board of directors would like to thank all of you who have made 2005 a successful year. Those of you that donated time at the reunion thanks again, Jim Mckee who runs the Hooch, Steve Luebbert our Comm Chief and the membership committee, have all done an excellent job this year, thanks for all your time and work.

At the general membership meeting in New Orleans it was voted on and passed to raise the dues to \$40.00 this year in Fredericksburg. We also planned on publishing a new Membership Roster. Since the increase in dues, membership cards are now free, along with Membership Rosters and the FRA will pay for the postage. Dues and any other correspondence should be sent to the FRA Angels Camp address. General questions can be directed to Steve Luebbert our Comm Chief; our next reunion will be in Las Vegas and we will give you full details in the spring Sitrep. If you are planning on attending the reunion in Las Vegas please write the Ex Dir or Comm Chief a quick note or email. We will use this information so we can plan on how members are coming and ensure no one misses out on attending FRA 2006 reunion.

We look forward to seeing you in Las Vegas, it should be a great time for all. If you have any questions, please contact me at [sasser@starband.net](mailto:sasser@starband.net). The FRA address is PO BOX 783 Angels Camp CA, 95222 or my home phone is (209) 607-6961. We hope that all members and their families had a joyous holiday. God Speed to all men and women in our armed forces fighting to protect our nation and freedom.

I remain,  
Semper Fidelis  
Dick Sasser FRA #1795  
Ex Dir FRA Worldwide

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## Letter from our LADIES

I would like to say a "BIG" hello to all of the ladies who stand behind our FRA members!

I am reasonably new to this organization but I can say without a doubt it is a pleasure and an honor to represent the ladies as your President, and I will do my very best to make our get together fun and profitable for our scholarships.

I had a great time in Virginia, and I really enjoyed spending time with you ladies and getting to know you!

We will be in Las Vegas for 2006. I am very excited, as I know we will all have a good time; there is so much to do!

As in years prior we will depend on the ladies to donate items for our silent auction. We do quite well financially with it. I know it seems early to remind, but you could probably find some really good items in the "after Christmas" sales!

I am working on getting a current list of all the ladies names, addresses, and phone numbers, so we can communicate since we are so spread apart. Don't worry, I won't be haunting you! ☺

The other thing I will be doing is getting a list together so we can all take turns watching the silent auction and still have some fun! If we could all donate an hour or two to watch it that would be a big help!

For those of you that were not able to come to Virginia your officers are:

President – Lorrie Kowalski  
Vice President – Ruth Haferkamp  
Secretary – Marie Howley  
Treasurer – Peggy Russell  
Hospitality Committee – Nancy Pilny & Patty Larsen

As soon as I get an address list together I will get a copy to all of you if you should ever have questions.

If you need to contact me: home phone 203 699-8977, or email [gikowal@cox.net](mailto:gikowal@cox.net)

Thank you for all your previous and future help!

Lorrie Kowalski  
President  
Force Recon Association Ladies Club

## From the FRA Secretary

### Force Recon Association

United States Marine Corps

“Link forever those who served together”

September 10, 2005 Fredericksburg, VA

#### EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Present:

President	Pat Teague, # 0038
Vice President	Wayne Pilny, # 1522 (Absent)
Secretary	Bruce Meyers, # 0007
Treasurer	Eliot “J.J.” Rubenfeld, # 1161
President Elect	Joe Settelen III, # 1576
Past President	Dick Sasser, # 1795
Executive Director	Dick Sasser, # 1795

#### BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Present:

Alan Bierline, # 2065	Wayne Lingenfelter, # 0042
Charles Buchholz, # 0127	Jim McKee, # 0965
Andy Christian, # 2559	Jess Wise, # 1700
James Doner, # 0294	George Saitta, # 1007(Medical)

Absent:

Bob Zwiener, # 0356  
Jose Tablada, # 1745

A quorum was determined and discussion followed.

**Elections:** The first order of business was the election slate. We were required to elect a President-Elect to serve for the remainder of 2005 through Recon 2007, a new Secretary and five new Members of the Board of Directors. Nominations were received from the floor to augment the recommendations of the Nominating Committee.

**LINK FOREVER THOSE WHO SERVED TOGETHER  
FORCE RECON ASSOCIATION BY-LAWS**

**Elections: (Continued)**

President-Elect: Andy Christian # 2559(to serve as President-Elect from present to FRA 2007, at which time he assumes the Presidency for the term Recon 2007 through 2009)

Vice President: Jose Tablada # 1745 (term concludes at FRA 2007)

Secretary: Bob Rowen # 2722 (replacing Bruce Meyers # 0007 who asked to withdraw) (term Runs to Recon 2007)

Treasurer: J. J. Rubenfeld # 1161 (re-elected for 2 year term)

Board of Directors ((4) Remaining 1 year on present term to FRA 2006): Allan Bierlein # 2025; Charles Bucholz #0127; James Doner #0294; James 'The Mac' McKee #0965.

New Members of Board of Directors (2 year terms from present to FRA 2007): Nelson Donley #0696; Wes Fox # 0068; Lew Kern #1930; Abbot Lighter #2355; Wayne Lingenfelter # 0042 and Jess Wise # 1700.

**Scholarship Committee:** Chair of the Scholarship Committee, Dr. Wayne Lingenfelter presented the report and recommendations for the award of \$ 4,500 in scholarship monies as follows:

**Ernie DeFazio Scholarship** \$ 1,000 to Member Sgt. Charles Poulton who is Studying Law Enforcement at the University of Phoenix.

**Siegal/Houghton Scholarship** \$ 1,000 to Member Mathew D. Quattrocelli, University of Mass., Marine Biology

**Sgt. David Caruso Memorial Scholarship** \$ 750 to Member Stepson of Sam DeNardi #2739 to Miles J. Presnell, Hawaii Pacific University in International Relations.

**Sasser Scholarship** \$ 500 to Rachael F. Moose (daughter of Paul Moose), Univ. Of Central Florida, Elementary Education.

**SgtMajor Maurice J. Jacques Scholarship** \$ 500 to Natalya Logunova, New School University, New York, Fashion design (wife of Member Kiril Shamin # 1766).

**FRA Scholarship** \$ 500 to Nora L. Naughton, North Carolina School of the Arts, Music (Cello) (Daughter of Kevin Naughton # 634)

**FRA Scholarship** \$ 250 to Steve Ehresman, Univ. of Montana, Engineering (Grandson of Carl L. Sprenglemeyer #0152))

**FRA Scholarship** \$ 250 to Fletcher P.. Loder, West Virginia University, Environmental Engineering (Son of Art Loder # 2336)

**Donna Johnson Scholarship** \$ 1,000 to Vanessa L. Settelen, Univ. of South Carolina, Language (Spanish)/Liberal Arts (Daughter of Joe Settelen # 1576) Provided by our Ladies Club.

Motion was made/seconded and passed to accept the above recommendations for scholarship awards.

Secretary’s note: These scholarship awards bring the amount that your Force Recon Association has given to approximately \$ 100,000 over the past 20 plus years!

**Site Selection for FRA 2006.** Executive Director Dick Sasser advised of the FRA’s history of low turnouts for FRA reunions in the middle of the country and historically when we have them on either coast, the attendance is greater. (E.g. St. Louis, New Orleans, Colorado Springs).

The Board of Directors has recommended that for next year, FRA 2006, be held in either San Diego or Las Vegas. Opinion was solicited from the floor and consensus was that more people can attend in Las Vegas because of reduced costs. Las Vegas was chosen over San Diego.



**Vietnam FRA Members Killed in Action Memorial "Wall"** Discussion on various means to bring the current "Wall" containing names of Force Recon members who were Killed in Action (donated by Member Jim Isom #1286) up to date to correct omissions. Data was incomplete at the time Jim Isom had "the Wall" made. After extensive discussion, a committee was formed, chaired By Jess Wise #1700 to examine ways to expand or replace Jim Isom's wall. (Secretary's Note: With regret, we have just learned of the congestive heart failure/lung cancer death of our Past-President Jim Isom on 12 September 2005).

**Annual Dues.** At FRA 2004 in New Orleans the dues were raised \$ 15 from the previous \$ 25 per year to \$ 40 per year. The Board in New Orleans agreed to evaluate how this was working in two years (2006). Currently the Board reviewed with the Treasurer the fiscal situation of FRA and the consensus was that the dues should be kept at \$ 40 per year, however this will be again reviewed at FRA 2006 in Las Vegas. The 167 Life Members were requested (after the New Orleans FRA 2004) to "donate \$ 25 to cover 5 years. Many have done this to date.

**Membership Roster.** Discussion was held on the **Membership Roster** (which by our By-Laws and Operating Procedures is to be published every two years). Having received several complaints from the members on the inclusion of personal telephone numbers on this roster, discussion was held on FRA policy on publishing personal telephone numbers in the Roster when the next roster is issued in March 2006. The consensus of the majority was to include the member's personal telephone numbers on the Membership Roster **unless the member advises the Executive Director that he does not wish to have his number included. The Executive Director must receive the request to not publish the member's personal telephone number by 28 February 2006.** Lastly, it was decided not to include the In Memoriam Members on the 2006 Membership Directory. Only fully paid-up members will be included in the Membership Directory due to be published in March 2006.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

### **Report to the General Membership on FRA Former Member # 0072 Incident.**

President Pat Teague

provided a report on the FRA former member # 0072. As a result of certain events that occurred at New Orleans and following, FRA former member # 0072 (1) stopped payment on checks for FRA 2004, which incurred costs to FRA (2) allegedly had

inappropriate verbal contact with the FRA Executive Director and (3) published allegedly inaccurate information on the internet re the operations of FRA, its officers, Board of Directors and Executive Director. These allegations were referred to the 10 member Disciplinary Board (DB) with complete copies and documentation of each of the above 3 allegations. The Board after due consideration, voted that FRA former member # 0072 was no longer a FRA member in good standing. A packet was sent to FRA former member # 0072 advising him of these findings of the DB and providing him advice on the procedure for reinstatement and that he would have to: (1) apologize to the Office of the Executive Director (2) reimburse FRA for the stop payment fees and (3) agree to correct the misstatements in his e-mails. FRA former member # 0072 was given 60 days in which to respond. FRA former member # 0072 unfortunately refused to accept from the Post Office the Certified/Return-Receipt package. He thus by his refusal was unaware of the 60 day time frame in which he could apply for reinstatement to a member in good standing. Upon passage of the 60 days FRA former member # 0072 was administratively dropped from our membership roles.

FRA former member # 0072 came to Fredericksburg as a guest of another member. He brought with him a Request for reinstatement. The Board of Directors met and after extensive discussion, 2/3 Of the Board of Directors and the Executive Committee voted to reject his application for reinstatement (vote 9 to reject, 5 to accept back in good standing). FRA former member # 0072 was advised of the vote and it was suggested to him that he come to Las Vegas in FRA 2006 and again petition reinstatement. He was further advised that the Board of Directors and Executive Committee would probably look favorably on his Las Vegas petition.

Following the above report given to the General Membership, Member John Cole spoke on behalf of FRA former member # 0072 and against the decisions and actions of the Board of Directors, the Executive Committee and the Disciplinary Board, and specifically criticized the FRA By-Laws . His comments were noted by all concerned.

**Secretary’s Note re the Disciplinary Process** It is noted that the FRA has only had to use the By-Laws provisions to investigate and take action under the Disciplinary procedures two times in the 26 year history of the Force Recon Association.

**Report to the General membership on Cpl Brendan Blackthorn.** Brendan Blackthorn appeared at our New Orleans FRA reunion in dress blues wearing sergeant’s stripes, and various ribbons and badges to which he was not entitled. He had been given an FRA scholarship based on falsified documents.

When this matter was investigated, Blackthorn was confronted as a "Wannabe." He immediately returned \$ 1145 of the scholarship monies, apologized by letter, admitting that he does not rate the MOS 0321, does not rate the parachute or diver devices that he was wearing and was wearing rank insignia to which he was not entitled and, finally that he never served in Force Recon and thus was not entitled to membership. His apology and the monies returned were accepted and his name has been expunged from our FRA roles. This matter was being referred to the FBI for prosecution under Title 10 US Code..

**Membership Report by Executive Director Dick Sasser.** FRA has 1979 total members counted from year 2000 to August 1, 2005. Of these there are 1,033 active members, including 20 honorary and 167 Life members. There are 156 Associate Members. We have lost 180 members that had paid through 2004, but whom have failed to pay dues for 2005. We have 283 Members in Memoriam. Some of these may be carried in the 1979 number of members because they had paid in advance prior to their death. There are 729 non-active members. These people may have moved, died or just quit. We do not know. Since 2001, we have averaged approximately 1,000 to 1200 active members.

**Financial Status (supplemented by Treasurer's Report).** The Executive Director Dick Sasser gave the overall status of our finances that he handles with our deposits in the Bank of Stockton.

FRA has \$ 14,077 in restricted account which includes pre-paid dues for coming years. Our General Funds account contains \$ 4,204. Jim "Mac" McKee who runs our Supply Hooch was given a check for \$ 2,000 for purchase of hooch items for sale. The restricted Reunion Account has \$ 17,000 to cover paying for the hotel, meals, busses etc. No bills are owed that can not be paid. Our FRA is financially stable. We are going to be moving from keeping excess funds in a 1-month CD to a 90-day CD which will pay a greater return on interest (1.97%).

Moved/Seconded and Passed to accept the Executive Director's Report as given.

**Treasurer's Report (copy appended) .** Treasurer Eliot "J.J." Rubenfeld gave the Treasurer's **Report. Summary at the end (September 30 2004)**, (which included the FRA Reunion in New Orleans which caused a number of requests for refunds). FRA had 3 Bank Accounts with a total of approximately \$ 18,000 in CDs, Only \$ 4,400 was requested as refunds when members cancelled out of New Orleans due to Hurricane Ivan. The bulk of members elected to not request refunds and these monies helped the FRA financial status. Thank you! We had approximately \$ 30,571 in Scholarship funds. Inventory was approximately \$ 13,000. Total FRA Assets at the end of the Fiscal Year were \$ 63,144.70.

At the end of 2004, we had \$ 7,025 in Accrued Liabilities of which about \$ 3,500 was elected to be used in scholarships. The Scholarship fund had accrued unrealized gain of \$ 4,133.43. Total liabilities were thus \$ 11,159. Our ending Total Equity was \$ 51,985.70.

**Report Summary for 2005.** In that we have not yet reached the end of our Fiscal Year (Sep30), all figures for 2005 are approximate. Prior to FRA 2005, the Treasurer reported \$ 22,500 but with additional payments received, is now close to \$ 30,000 in cash. Scholarship funds had \$ 33,480 available for investment. Hooch account \$ 2,098. Inventory in the hooch has not been adjusted but is approximately \$ 13,000. Bottom line is that our Net Worth is approximately \$ 63,970.

Comments on operations: We took in \$ 27,288 in membership dues. Memorabilia sales Of \$ 12,431.50 prior to arrival at FRA 2005. Income so far at FRA 2005 has been \$ 9,158 and \$ 1,910 scholarship income. This gives a total income of \$ 47,327.70 Expenses for year 2005 total \$ 35,343.02. This does include fees for Team Leader plaques of \$ 832.67, some \$ 6,500 was paid the hotel as a advance hold for our reservation. We purchased \$ 10,472.79 for hooch supplies. Our cost-saving by sending out Sitreps by email has saved printing costs from approximately \$ 12,000 down to about \$ 6,444 so far this year. Our net income (subject to adjustment at the end of our fiscal year on Sep 30, 2005) is approximately \$ 12,000 (\$11,984.68).

Actual profit and loss figures will be available at the end of September 2005 at the close of our fiscal year. A complete Profit and Loss statement will be published in the Spring 2006 SitRep.

Moved/seconded and passed to accept the Treasurer's report as presented.

**Report on FRA Hooch.** Jim "Mac" McKee presented an overview of hooch sales. Information on sales and availability of the Recon rings was provided. Policy was reiterated on only one challenge coin per member as being permitted. Jim requested volunteers for anyone who could pick up the hooch sales items for transport to Las Vegas. Please contact Jim to volunteer; it will save FRA a considerable sum from the cost of moving the hooch sales items to the FRA reunion location.

**Elections:** The results of the election (see pp. 1) from the slate presented are as follows:

President-Elect: Andy Christian (to serve as President-Elect from present to FRA 2007, at which time he assumes the Presidency for the term Recon 2007 through 2009)

Vice President: Jose Tablada (term concludes at FRA 2007)

Secretary: Bob Rowen (replacing Bruce Meyers who asked to withdraw) (term Runs to Recon 2007)

Treasurer: J. J. Rubenfeld (re-elected for 2 year term)

Board of Directors ((4) Remaining 1 year on present term to FRA 2006): Allan Bierlein; Charles Bucholz; James Doner; James 'The Mac' McKee.

New Members of Board of Directors (2 year terms from present to FRA 2007): Nelson Donley; Wes Fox; Lou Kern; Wayne Lingenfelter; Jess Wise

Note: In that Andy Christian was already a Board Member prior to his election as President-Elect, the President is expected to appoint a replacement Board Member in lieu of Andy Christian with advice and consent of the Executive Board.

**ABBOTT LIGHTER** received the next highest votes for a board seat. FRA President Joe Settelen has directed that he be appointed to finish 1 year seat of Andy Christian. Ex Dir concurs and confirms. **Welcome Aboard Abbott!**

**Reconnaissance Team Leader Awards.** FRA is continuing to award Team Leader Awards to every active duty and reserve reconnaissance units.

**Disciplinary Board.** Ten members signed up to serve on the Disciplinary Board. Will be posted in next Sit Rep.

**Adjournment.** The Meeting was adjourned at 1325 hours.

Respectfully submitted,

Bruce F. Meyers # 007  
FRA Secretary

**IF YOU HAVE DIGITAL PICTURES YOU WOULD LIKE TO GET INTO THE SIT REP, SEND THEM TO THE FRA PRESIDENT!**



**HISTORIC TOURS OF FREDERICKBURG**



**WORK AND PLAY...ALWAYS A GOOD THING !**



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

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

1<sup>st</sup> FORCE RECONNAISSANCE COMPANY, CAMP PENDLETON, CALIFORNIA

Commanding Officer: Lieutenant Colonel George W. Smith, Jr.

Sergeant Major (acting): Master Gunnery Sergeant Gregory L. Gillispie

Each Marine in this command has contributed to the continued success of 1<sup>st</sup> Force Reconnaissance Company. To underscore the efforts and achievements of all of our Marines in the current operational environment it is important to note that earlier this year and for the first time in the history of the Company, three separate Platoons were assigned and/or forward deployed with each West Coast MEU (SOC) while the balance of the Company (-) was forward deployed in support of OIF. As the OPTEMPO and DEPTMPO have risen dramatically to support the overall Global War On Terrorism, all of the Marines and their families have truly demonstrated their mettle through their selfless sacrifice and magnificent daily performance.

1<sup>st</sup> Force Recon Company (-) departed on 6 February 2005 for OIF III and is currently conducting combat operations in support of II MEF in the western Al Anbar province of Iraq. The Company (-) integrated headquarters support personnel and a reinforced USMCR platoon from 4<sup>th</sup> Reconnaissance Battalion for its deployment, designating the latter as 7<sup>th</sup> Platoon (REIN). The Company (-), led by the Commanding Officer and half of the Company Staff, a Headquarters Platoon, a reinforced 4<sup>th</sup> Platoon, and the aforementioned reinforced 7<sup>th</sup> Platoon, began its pre-deployment training at Bullis AFB, San Antonio in November 2004. In December 2004 and January 2005, the Company (-) continued its pre-deployment training at Camp Pendleton, California. Thus far during the deployment, the Company (-) has conducted a wide range of combat missions throughout the western Al Anbar province and deep into the Al Jazirah Desert. Combat operations have included limited scale mounted, dismounted, heliborne, and amphibious raids; urban and rural reconnaissance and surveillance missions; route and area reconnaissance missions, sniper missions; Tactical Recovery of Aircraft Personnel (TRAP) missions; and coordinated attacks with adjacent units. In direct support of RCT-2, the Company (-) has been employed as the RCT rapid strike capability across a 30,000 square mile area of operations, striking locally throughout the Hit-Haditha corridor along the Euphrates River, north into the Al Jazirah desert, northwest into the Al Qaim region near the Syrian border, and southwest into the Ar Rutbah region near the Jordanian border. Specifically, the Company (-) has conducted over (50) Platoon-sized and larger Company-sized raid missions, (13) reconnaissance team missions, (52) sniper team missions, and participated in named operations RIVER BLITZ, RIVER BRIDGE, NIGHTSTALKERS I through IV, MANSION, 440, EGG HUNT, SANDMAN, MATADOR, and SPEAR. The Company (-)'s direct accomplishments have included (129) Targeted Individuals detained; (28) of which were identified as High Value Targets, an estimated (32) EKIA, and (2) EWIA, while sustaining (5) FWIA.

1<sup>st</sup> Platoon led by Captain Harriman and Gunnery Sergeant Baglietto set sail in December of 2004, on their Western Pacific deployment with the 15<sup>th</sup> Marine Expeditionary Unit and Expeditionary Strike Group 5. They conducted scheduled stops in Hawaii and Guam for training and liberty. However, the planned stop in Guam was interrupted by the Tsunami that devastated several countries in South East Asia. The MEU immediately responded to the disaster and pledged its support in humanitarian assistance to the areas affected in Sri Lanka and Indonesia. 1<sup>st</sup> Platoon participated in the relief effort by distributing food and water as well as providing security to key staff members of the MEU. In February, the platoon found itself in Kuwait conducting sustainment training for Direct Action raids and Mounted Patrolling Operations. By March the platoon was on its way to southern Baghdad for security and stabilization operations in the North Babil province. For 30 days the platoon conducted reconnaissance patrols and Direct Action raids in support of Operations WARNING TRACK and STALLION RUN. The platoon sustained no friendly casualties and was responsible for the capture of two High-Value Individuals as well as disrupting the employment of Improvised Explosive Devices, which had been a constant threat throughout this period.



## 1<sup>st</sup> Force Reconnaissance Company Update (Continued)

e MEU re-embarked ARG shipping and headed west for a week of well-deserved liberty in Brisbane, Australia. By May the platoon was back in Hawaii for its final stop before returning home. On June 5<sup>th</sup> the platoon returned to Camp Pendleton.

2<sup>nd</sup> Platoon led by Captain Opalski and Gunnery Sergeant Evans arrived at FOB Duke, Najaf, Iraq with the 11<sup>th</sup> MEU(SOC) in July of 2004. During the period from July to October 2004, 2d Platoon conducted over fifty reconnaissance and combat missions in support of Operation PACIFIC GUARDIAN in vicinity of Najaf. Missions included direct action raids, security patrols, mounted and dismounted reconnaissance patrols, and personal security detachments in support of several high-level dignitaries, to include the President of Iraq. The Platoon sustained no friendly casualties and was responsible for capturing five high-value individuals, and over fifty Mutquada Militia members throughout this period. The Platoon served as primary assault element in conjunction with ODA and Iraqi Counter Terrorist Force on Al Sadr's headquarters which uncovered one of the largest weapons caches during OIF II and captured twenty-five militia members. In October of 2004, 2<sup>nd</sup> Platoon was attached to RCT-1 to support Operation PHANTOM FURY, the attack on Fallujah. Prior to D-Day, the platoon conducted several close-in reconnaissance missions of the northern and northwestern sectors of Fallujah. The enemy information gathered by the reconnaissance teams contributed greatly to the successful seizure of RCT objectives by 3/5 and 3/1. During the assault on Fallujah, the platoon was in general support of the RCT and supported 3/1, 3/5, and 1/3 during three weeks of fighting. During this period, the platoon conducted sniper and counter sniper operations, reconnaissance, mounted/dismounted patrols, ITG of RW and FW CAS, observation posts, and numerous limited clearing operations. The Marines in the platoon contributed to over seventy enemy KIA, to include foreign fighters from Libya, Morocco, and Syria. The platoon sustained (5) FWIA.

3<sup>rd</sup> Platoon led by Captain Morgan and Gunnery Sergeant Schmidt formed up and began preparation for a year long training cycle in June 2004, in order to prepare for deployment with the 13<sup>th</sup> MEU(SOC) in July 2005. During the last year, 3<sup>rd</sup> Platoon conducted five months of a Company workup including training packages in Combat Trauma, Long Range Communications, Low Level Static Line Parachuting, Force Fires, Weapons and Tactics, Mounted and Dismounted Desert and Urban Reconnaissance, Reconnaissance Patrolling, High Altitude High Opening Parachuting, and Amphib/Combatant Dive Packages. Following this training cycle, the platoon chopped to the 13<sup>th</sup> MEU and began its MEU(SOC) training in January of 2005. This training began with Special Operations Training Group's Dynamic Entry Course, followed by its Close Quarters Battle Course, giving the platoon the skills required to support the MEU with a Direct Action capability. The platoon then conducted SOTG's Inter-Operability Course to include: Training in a Realistic Urban Environment Exercise, Visit Board Search and Seizure Course, MEUEX, COMPTUEX, and finally JTFEX in which the platoon earned their Special Operations Capable certification. 3<sup>rd</sup> Platoon will be deploying in July 2005, making a short stop in Hawaii for sustainment training, and then continuing west in order to support the Global War On Terrorism as part of the 13<sup>th</sup> MEU(SOC).

4<sup>th</sup> Platoon led by Captain Galvin and Gunnery Sergeant Moore was reinforced and they are currently forward deployed with the Company (-), conducting combat operations in support of II MEF for OIF III; refer to the Company (-) information above.

5<sup>th</sup> Platoon led by Captain Graczyk and Gunnery Sergeant Lunn will chop to the 11<sup>th</sup> MEU(SOC) in August to begin their workup prior to their deployment. Fifth Platoon returned from Iraq on 2 September 2005. The platoon took a month of leave and several Marines moved on to new jobs and new platoons. Nine of the platoon members from last deployment remain in Fifth Platoon providing a solid core of continuity. Additionally, new Marines from 3d Recon Battalion, Okinawa, and the East Coast provide the base of the current platoon. October through January provided the bulk of the platoon's basic skills training such as Airborne, Military Freefall, Marine Combatant Diver, SERE, and the Basic Reconnaissance Course. January through June, the Platoon conducted the Company Phase II workup focusing on green side patrolling and insertion and extraction skills as teams and as a platoon. The Platoon also conducted one





## 1<sup>st</sup> Force Reconnaissance Company Update (Continued)

one week of combat trauma, two weeks of supporting arms and close air support, two weeks of communications training, two weeks of diving, a week of amphibious insertion techniques, a week of low level static line parachuting, a week of HAHO parachuting, three weeks of weapons and tactics, and patrolling on board Camp Pendleton, desert patrolling in Yuma, AZ, and mountain patrolling in Lake Tahoe.

7<sup>th</sup> Platoon led by Major Schweitzer and Gunnery Sergeant Morano (USMCR Augment Platoon) are currently forward deployed with the Company (-), conducting combat operations in support of II MEF for OIF III; refer to the Company (-) information above.

The collective performance of the forward deployed Company Staff has been exceptional. The Admin Section led by Captain Cotoia has devoted countless hours to sustain the administrative readiness of each individual Marine. The Intel Section led by Captain Wilson and SSgt Whaley is the Company's center of gravity. As a result of their efforts to reach out to and work with all intelligence gathering agencies throughout Iraq, they have developed techniques and procedures to rapidly fuse all information into actionable target sets. The Operations Section led by Major Dowd, Major Humphrey, Master Gunnery Sergeant Gillispie, and Master Sergeant Doss remains the pivot point where all concepts are quickly vetted and coordinated in order to enable the Company (-) or separate Platoons to rapidly strike their assigned targets. The achievements of the Logistics Section led by Captain Collins are especially impressive. Through the tireless hard work of a relatively small section, they have truly "done more with less". The innovation and creativity that exists within the Communications Section led by Master Sergeant Alleruzzo has resulted in the Company's ever increasing ability to communicate more effectively over greater distances via not only traditional radio nets, but also through secure and non-secure web based networks.

The remarkably resourceful and action oriented Marines that make up the rear detachment Staff, performed equally as well. Concurrent to Company (-)'s deployment, the rear detachment at Camp Pendleton led by Major Palma and Master Sergeant Packard, with the S1 led by SSgt De La Trinidad, the S2 led by First Lieutenant Shoaf, the S3 led by Captain Opalski, the S4 led by First Lieutenant Edwards, the S6 led by Captain Komnick, and the CAS led by HMC Grohman, continued to sustain the enduring task of remaining a reliable force provider of well trained and fully qualified Force Reconnaissance Platoons for the three West Coast MEUs (SOC). This is a considerable accomplishment considering the myriad of training packages and events that must be developed, coordinated, and supervised. Additionally, the Consolidated Dive Locker led by Master Diver Briggs completed the construction and implementation of a new state of the art Dive/Amphib maintenance facility located at Camp Del Mar.

The Company has had several of its most faithful and committed professionals retire from the Marine Corps while other key positions have changed hands as Marines have received and executed PCS orders. Sergeant Major Grizzle executed orders to assume his duties as the Sergeant Major of 1<sup>st</sup> Marine Regiment, while Sergeant Major Glembin will be checking in to assume his duties as the Sergeant Major of 1<sup>st</sup> Force Reconnaissance Company in July. Major Veeris executed orders to assume his duties as the Military Attaché in Chile, while Major Palma, fresh off an exchange tour with the British Royal Marines, assumed his duties as the Executive Officer in October. This year's Team Leader of the Year, Gunnery Sergeant Carver, executed orders to assume his duties as an instructor at MWTC Bridgeport, California. The Communications Chief, Master Sergeant Murphy, retired after 22 years of service to the Marine Corps and the Company in April. The Training Chief, Master Sergeant Whelan, retired after 22 years of service to the Marine Corps and the Company in May. The Training Cadre SNCOIC, Gunnery Sergeant Rohn, retired after 20 years of service to the Marine Corps and the Company in June.

Until the next SitRep, Semper Fidelis from the Men of 1<sup>st</sup> Force!



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

The Company returned to OIF a few months ago with 1<sup>st</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> platoons respectively. Once the turn over was complete with 1<sup>st</sup> Force, we have been on the go ever since. For most Marines it was their first deployment to Iraq and they have adjusted well. All Marines, forward and rear, have a busy schedule no matter what their job entails. It continues to be a "high op tempo" period with no end in sight. The Force Companies continue "doubling up" on the deployment cycles with OIF and the traditional deployments. All are anxious to see what their futures hold for them with the recent developments in MARSOC.

1<sup>st</sup> plt with GySgt McNamee completed their final portions of their work up with the command in order to deploy for combat operations supporting OIF. GySgt Coleman's 2d Plt recently completed their work up with 22 MEU and has since deployed for further operations. GySgt Mercer brought 3<sup>rd</sup> Plt back from deployment and has turned over with GySgt Disbennet. They have begun their school phase and prepare for their future deployment. GySgt Gardner is in work up training with 4<sup>th</sup> Plt preparing them for 26 MEU and GySgt McDermott has recently taken 4<sup>th</sup> Plt through their work up cycle and has chopped to 24 MEU.

Regular promotions to their present rank

GySgt Zeyer	GySgt Styan	GySgt Tanner	HMC Tague
SSgt Lusk	SSgt Therriault	SSgt Wells	SSgt Perez
Sgt Bredenkoetter	Sgt Whopperer	Sgt Field	Sgt Maxim
Sgt Walker			

Meritorious promotions to their present rank

Sgt Henderson	Cpl Dushek	Cpl Ziebarth
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We recently mourned the loss of Sgt Seamus Davey from Lowville New York. Sgt Davey was killed 21 Oct, 05 while conducting combat operations in the Al Anbar Province. Sgt Davey was attached to 2d Force Recon Co. from Det, 4th Force Recon, Reno Nevada. He will be missed. Our thoughts and prayers go out to his family and friends.

1 <sup>st</sup> plt	2d Plt	3 <sup>rd</sup> Plt
Capt Foreman	Capt Strelkauskas	Capt Ingraham
GySgt McNamee	GySgt McDermott	GySgt Disbennet

4 <sup>th</sup> plt	5 <sup>th</sup> Plt	7 <sup>th</sup> Plt Det Reno/Hawaii
Capt Noble	Capt Johnson	Capt Trzcinski
GySgt Gardner	GySgt Coleman	GySgt Sterling

Semper Fi from 2d Force Recon Company



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

3<sup>rd</sup> Force Reconnaissance Sit Rep Unavailable at this publishing.

What is known is that the men of 3<sup>rd</sup> Force are extremely busy. With the Companies deployment augmentation at an all time high, 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!



## 4th Force Reconnaissance Company Update

4th Force Reconnaissance Sit Rep Unavailable at this publishing.

What is known is that the men of 4th Force are extremely busy in Reno and Hawaii. With the Companies deployment augmentation at an all time high, they are also constantly training and augmenting the active forces every time they are called on. Reserves forces have been an extremely important part of the war on terror. They too continue to bring the fight to our enemies.

God's Speed Men.

FRA Members Send!



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

1<sup>st</sup> Recon Bn Sit Rep Unavailable at this publishing.

What is known is that the men in 1<sup>st</sup> Recon Bn are out in the Global War on Terror Theater of Operation in rotation with 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Recon Battalion. They are also continuing support to the MEUs. They are bringing the fight to our enemies.

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 out in the Global War on Terror Theater of Operation in rotation with 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Recon Battalion. They are also continuing support to the MEUs. 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

3<sup>rd</sup> Recon Bn Sit Rep Unavailable at this publishing.

What is known is that the men in 3<sup>rd</sup> Recon Bn are out in the Global War on Terror Theater of Operation. They are also continuing support to the 31<sup>st</sup> MEUs and rotations into Asian area of operations. They are bringing the fight to our enemies.

God's Speed Men. "Celer, Silens, Mortalis"

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 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!





The Marine Corps force contribution unit "Detachment One", which was 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/Team, EOD and an Intel Fusion Cell which has now been granted a **permanent existence within USSOCOM.**

However, the now proven exact model of Detachment One was not what was approved. A hybrid of the concept was given the "full go ahead" by the Secretary of Defense. This much larger contribution will be about 2500 men strong when it reaches full operational capability.

The original Det/MARSOC concept, designed by LtCol Giles Kyser, MGySgt Joe Settelen, and MSgt Troy Mitchell, under direct guidance of LtGen Buck Bedard and Commandant Jones was a 3 to 4 Det model (137 men per Det), a JSOTF capable Hqtrs Fwd and Rear (about 155 men) and a composite Aviation element complete with aircraft maintainers (coming in at about 198 men). Making the whole contribution about 800-850 men. The question that remains.... "Is bigger better, when it comes to Spec Ops?" and "Is 2500, what SOCOM needs to perform its expanded global mission?"

Some say the hybrid was due to adjustments by CMC and the SOCOM CDR, who may have been trying to outlast the administration on making this decision at all; basically resistance to a permanent contribution. One tactic used by DoD is to increase the size and change its functionality, so it dies in staffing do to changes. So, there is some possibility that staffers may have been hoping to hold off a decision all together. It wasn't a popular concept after Gen Jones departed HQMC. Other staffers say both Generals were concerned over the funding it would take, which would give both a good reason to balk at a speedy decision.

Then we know one of the toughest issues, is in the cultural differences that exists from the rejection Marine forces

gave SOCOM when it was built in the 1980s. But at least one DC insider says that the current Commandant, Gen Hagee and Commander USSOCOM, Gen Brown were pushed into the decision by the Secretary of Defense. Who desired to make a permanent force contribution a significant contribution to overcome the rice bowl mentality both services where generating in Special Operations Capabilities. Which the Sec Def references in several speeches given to troops around the globe.

Regardless of the indecision, the MC SOCOM Det 1, sat for over 16 months while USMC and SOCOM leadership slow rolled this decision process. But that did not stop the men at Det 1, who ignored the politics and continued to train, hoping for orders back to the battlefield. Orders never came again, and their one, highly successful deployment, will be all they put in the history books.

Their first deployment netted them a highly impressive string of operations. While NSW gets the credibility, MC SOCOM Det 1 ran successful capture operations against 9 high value targets and over 87 successful raids/patrols. The MC SOCOM Det 1 personnel laced together an impressive method of finding, fixing and finishing the enemy out in the dirt. They never created a drain on the JSOTF Hqtrs or support sections for intel or logistics. Often at times they carried the ball for the NSW Staff which is not made up of war fighters as it is in the Marine Corps. So the Det's internal capability was additive and highly adaptive as per design. (One would think this would stop and make high level leadership study the original concept a little better.)

While the Det was sure the Corps would redeploy them even in direct or indirect support of another mission, the orders never came and the "why" is all but a mystery. During that time, USSOCOM and NSW were sure the Det was broken up and redistributed back into the Corps structure. But Lt Gen Huly & Parks at HQMC held the Detachment together awaiting concrete decisions, with only minor personnel changes for career necessary appointments.

If NSW and SOCOM had hopes that it would die on the vine, and that a stall would break apart the talent and skill, it failed. It is now ready for transition to USSOCOM. Hopefully, Gen Hejlik, who is the appointed Commander of the much larger MARSOC component, can put some common sense back into the design of the unit. Something he is well known for having. He once served as a Deputy in USSOCOM, so he is said to be the perfect fit to bring the two services together and carry this integration through.

As the Hqtrs element begins to form, they will be in a superior position to adjust the design and Tables of Organization back in line with the original Gen Jones/Gen Bedard concept. And with this Commandant and SOCOM CDR on their way out, a chance exists to build a new relationship between the two super heavy weights of the modern day battlefield.

Word is the Hqtrs will be at Camp Lejuene and the forces split between California and North Carolina, with a possible senior command structure somewhere in Tampa in the near future.

Whatever, the circumstances and situation, the Marine Corps Detachment One can say they were the first organization built for specific intent of special operations and combat action since the original Raiders. After September 11<sup>th</sup>, 2001, the Det was formed. Not since the Raiders, was a unit put together with a specific function for forward combat in a configuration that would find, fix and finish the enemy with specific precision and intent.

Det 1 should and has the distinct right, to be proud of their legacy they leave behind. God willing, the new contribution will be remolded back towards its original self contained operational Detachments, leveling technology and senior Marine expertise for purpose of hunting down our enemies and killing or capturing them.



## 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:

PAT PATRICK FRA # 0399

DONALD J. MARKUS FRA # 1618

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

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See us at:

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

## Back Page Info "Sit Rep Help Needed!"

As many of you know we are on our 3<sup>rd</sup> year with the new "Sit Rep" look. It's a slight challenge to get these issues out during the year, but it has gotten easier now. The war has every recon unit and recon position extremely busy with the Global War on Terror. I'm seeking an assistant to take over the "Sit Rep" assembly as I moved up this year to become your "President".

I promise to stay involved with the "Sit Rep" assembly and not let anyone learn from hard knocks as I did. I will remain connected to the Recon Units to solicit their unit "Sit Reps" and make that easy on who ever steps up so you are getting the material.

So PLEASE, PLEASE can someone step forward to help with the assembly of the FRA

Sit Rep by March 2006?

As you know the "Sit Rep" is Web based and the template is in MS WORD newsletter format. It is put together with Microsoft Word and easy to handle. Your "Executive Director" Dick Sasser, has the task of building and approving the release, but Dick is not a computer savvy guy. So I try to help him out, and who ever takes this over will have some back up from Dick and I when you take over this responsibility.

This news letter is your voice and any and all have input to the content. Your input is truly welcome. If you cannot download from the web, we will mail you a printed version. Just contact your Executive Director and

he will ensure you are on a limited mailing distribution.

I ask that all interested in writing articles keep them coming. Send them MS WORD or in a simple email. We can then use the text to cut and paste into this template for posting on the web. Pictures in digital format, historical articles, past experiences, unit updates and lessons learned are welcome.

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

For submissions of a helping hand in putting the Sit Rep together, I can be reached at

[Titaniumjoe@comcast.net](mailto:Titaniumjoe@comcast.net)

Joe Settelen #1576

### 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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