

SITREP

VOLUME 21 ISSUE 2 JUNE 2010

LINK FOREVER THOSE WHO SERVED TOGETHER

NEWSLETTER OF THE



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REMINDER!

- Dues are due in January each year
- Have you moved? Please send us your new info.
- Have you changed your email address? If you don't tell us we can't contact you.
- FRA Member Rosters can be ordered through the Supply Hooch for \$25.
- An electronic version (Adobe pdf) of the FRA Member Roster is also available at no charge. Send an email request to CommChief@ForceRecon.com

RECON 2010 SAN DIEGO !



Recon 2010 – San Diego

Date: September 8 – 11, 2010.
Location: Holiday Inn On The Bay
Phone: 800 877-8920
Discount Code – FRA
Cut-off Date – 9 Aug 2010

Reserve your room now.

The dates are set. The location is set. This is the same location where Recon 2008 took place. Call the toll-free number above to make your reservations. You must use the discount code to get our preferred rates. The cut-off date for reserving your room at the Holiday Inn On The Bay with our preferred rate is written in stone, so book 'em while you can. Reservations made after the cut-off date will be booked at the hotel's standard rate, if rooms are available.

Reunion Events

We're shooting for events similar to the ones in 2008. A live fire on a Camp Pendleton range, a dinner cruise on San Diego Bay, a duck tour (where, I hear, you can see SEALs in their own habitat), the Run, Walk, Crawl, the auction and the Ball.

The itinerary has been finalized. The registration and itinerary are now available.

Register before the reunion but do not mail registrations after 16 August 2010.

Registration packets are mailed to Mac in Rowe, MA. He will probably leave home for the reunion around the first of September. If you wait until the 3rd week of August or later to mail in your registration, Mac will have already left home by the time your registration arrives to the FRA PO Box. Your registration will then sit in that PO box until Mac returns from the reunion. You will have to register again when you arrive at the reunion. At that time, some events may not be available.

So, I say again...

Recon 2010 DEADLINES

(these are the drop-dead-no-later-than dates)

Room Reservations – 9 Aug 2010

Registration Postmarked – 16 Aug 2010

Mac has been diligently practicing the six P's to make this reunion the best possible experience for all who attend. The best way to guarantee yourself the best experience is to book your room and mail in your registration before the deadlines.

Letter from your “PRESIDENT”

" Linked forever those who served together "

How true our motto is. I want to relate to you a story that happen to me recently that demonstrates this.

Some where around 2002 I ran into a young man at a shooting range near my home in Coleman Michigan , his name is Tim. One day we struck up a conversation and he told me he had recently gotten out of the Marine Corps and that he was with Force Recon. He also stated that it was a big mistake to have gotten out and that he wished he could get back in and to a Force Recon Company.

After making sure he was not a wannabe, that he was, in fact, with Force Recon I told him that I knew someone that maybe be able to help him get back in.

MGySgt Joe Settelen was working at the Pentagon at that time. He was working with MSgt Troy Mitchell. They were tasked with all the Recon Marines. Joe decided who went where and when. Their mission From Commandant Jones was to "Fix Recon". I gave Joe a call and he told me to have Tim call him, which he did. He was told to contact a GySgt who just happened to be in the same Force Recon Company at the same time Tim was. So, a long story short, Tim got back into the Marine Corps and back into Force Recon.

Fast forward to April 2010. I received a call from my good friend and FRA member Jim (Sam) Sandoz. Jim and I were on several missions together in Vietnam. He said he and a friend were talking outside a restaurant in Baltimore, Maryland, where Jim lives, and a guy walked passed them and saw Jims FRA hat and said he was also in Force Recon. They talked for awhile and the guy asked Jim "do you know an Allan Bierlein that served in Force?" Jim informed him that we served together and were best friends. The man's name was Tim. Yes the same Tim I met several years before.

What a small tight-knit unit we have. Our ties go all the way back to the Amphibious Recon Marines to the Force Recon and MarSoc of today. We have a bond like no other.

I look forward to seeing you at the reunion.

Allan Bierlein
President FRA



Letter from your “EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR”

Before I begin this SITREP, I would personally like to express my ‘THANKS’ and ‘WELL DONE’, to our Marines who have returned from their tours overseas. I am especially grateful for the service that all of our MARINES have rendered to our country. And I would also like to extend a very hearty..... ‘WELCOME HOME’!

Hopefully our MARINES who are now serving in combat, will return safely. I know each and every member of the ASSOCIATION, supports you and the mission each and every one of you are now conducting. We are also looking forward to seeing as many of you as possible at our upcoming reunion in September.

Currently, we are heading towards September and the San Diego reunion. As always, we have planned some very special events for all of the members to partake in. One of the events planned, is a tour of the new MARSOC facility onboard Camp Pendleton. I was afforded the opportunity by Major Andy Christian, to actually tour the facility. As I walked through the new facility, I was amazed at the attention that has finally been paid to our MARINES who will be and are now serving in Special Operation units. For many of us who have served in FORCE RECON units in the past, the new MARSOC training facility is a dream come true. I know that everyone who visits will be amazed.

We will also arrange transportation to the new ‘WOUNDED WARRIORS BN.’, on the base. Major Christian and I donated 12 ‘SPECIALIZED’ bikes to the MARINES at the Battalion earlier this year. The donation was made from the Association’s general funds and was accepted with enthusiasm by the MARINES who are patients in the program.

Other events are listed in the **REUNION ITINERARY** contained in this SITREP. It is strongly recommended that everyone examine the itinerary, and it is requested that you make arrangements as to which events you want to attend, promptly, on the **REGISTRATION FORM**, provided in this SITREP. We need to know the number of attendees as soon as possible because of the restriction that have been provided by the events vendors, and for our transportation requirements.

At this time, we would like everybody to know that there is a time limit regarding the pricing of the rooms reserved for the FRA. The final date for reservations at the hotel is **9 August 2010**. We have gone to great lengths to provide the best room rate to our members. That rate is especially low when compared to other hotels within the downtown area of San Diego.

I have to go out on a limb this year, and ask for volunteers from within the membership, to help out with some of the venues. It isn’t really fair to some of our members, who always step up to help out. They pay for attending the reunion like everybody else, and unfortunately, they are limited to enjoying the events because they are helping out doing tasks like manning the HOOCH, helping with transportation, and generally running all over the place to make the remainder of the members attending, happy. This year it would great to have some others step up and help out.

Remember, ***RECON IS STRICTLY A TEAM EFFORT!***

Speaking of team efforts, member Joe Kowalski needs to be mentioned in this SITREP. Joe, along with a friend, Mr. George Dufresne, [another MARINE of course] both took the personal time and opportunity to

actually assist one of our GOLD STAR MOTHERS. Mrs. Helen Sincere, mother of PFC JAMES SINCERE, KIA 22 November 1968, while serving with 1st FORCE RECON CO.

While visiting Mrs. SINCERE one day, I noticed that she was in desperate need of some home repairs. I asked Joe if he could spare the time, without hesitation, he and George stepped up to the task and completed the repairs needed at an amazingly low cost. This is just one event in which our members stepped in and took charge of the situation and saw it through to completion. Helping our own, is what we are about. THANKS JOE!!!!

Another team effort was made by the Officers of the Association, who attended the 2010 SHOT SHOW. The reason for their attendance, was to garner up support for the Association's Scholarship Fund. This mission was also conducted at the 2009 SHOT SHOW, and the results were witnessed at the auction we had at our reunion in Quantico. Our objective wasn't a trip to Vegas as many would suppose, but it instead was an all out effort to contact as many vendors as possible to help support our scholarship effort. All of the officers can attest to the fact [just ask one of them] that we weren't on vacation. We worked, all day, every day and we didn't have much fun either.

We should also applaud the efforts of both Col. Bruce MEYERS and SGTMAJ Neal KINIG for their relentless efforts to secure a memorial for all RECON MARINES, at the NATIONAL MUSEUM OF THE MARINES in Quantico. The details concerning the memorial are contained within this SITREP.

There isn't much more for me to say presently, with the exception that I will be away for about a month, starting late June. All questions regarding the reunion will be answered by contacting our CommChief, Steve Luebbert. He will have access to the other members of the FRA BOARD, who will have all of the answers, and ready to help everybody with their questions.

I hope to see as good a turn out as we did at RECON 2009. I hope all of you have a pleasant summer. Take care and be safe!

Jim McKee

2010 Membership Criteria

Annual Dues - \$40

Regular Members:

All officers and enlisted members of the Armed Forces of the United States of America or her Allies who are now serving, or who have served, with any Force Reconnaissance Company, Regular or Reserve. Deep Recon Platoons of Marine Division Reconnaissance Battalion; or personnel who served in Amphibious Reconnaissance units between 1943 and 1958; and those reconnaissance-trained Marines and Corpsmen having served in Marine SOCOM Detachment 1, or those reconnaissance-trained Marines and Corpsmen serving from the establishment of MARSOC in 2005, that carry the MOS 0321 or have completed the MARSOC selection & assessment and subsequently assigned to a Marine Special Operations Battalion. Only Regular Members may serve as officers or on the Board of Directors of the Association.

Associate Members:

Civilians and veterans of U.S. Armed Forces and Allies who did not serve with a Force Reconnaissance Company, but who did make a significant development in or advancement to operational procedures or techniques inherent in Force Reconnaissance operations or who made a valuable and unique contribution to either operational Force Reconnaissance units or to the Association. Associate membership may include Recon Battalion, ANGLICO Marines, Non-reconnaissance trained personnel of Marine SOCOM Detachment 1 or MARSOC and Corpsmen of these units. Associate Members may not serve as officers or on the Board of Directors of the Association.

FORCE RECONNAISSANCE MEMORIAL

Semper Fi Park, Marine Corps Museum, Quantico Virginia

Donations Needed

The Marine Corps Historical Foundation recently announced the Semper Fi Park addition to the grounds surrounding the new National Marine Corps Museum. The State of Virginia deeded 22 acres surrounding the new Museum site for a park. Walkways and pathways have been built and there are picnic tables scattered throughout. Shortly after the announcement of Semper Fi Park, an invitation for commemorative monuments and statuary to be erected commemorating Marine Corps units, persons and events. A number of units and Marine Divisions and Regiments have accepted the invitation and several have already been erected.

SgtMajor Neal King and Colonel Bruce Meyers, the first Sergeant Major and first CO of Force Recon respectively, got together to design and have built a memorial for “Marines, Corpsmen of Force Recon Units and for those Marines and Corpsmen who became the first units of Marine Corps Forces, Special Operations Command, and their families.”

They approached several firms that build such monuments, particularly for military locations, cemeteries and parks. Professional stone masons and graphic artists took their sketches, ideas and text and turned their ideas into a truly stunning memorial. This package was submitted to the Marine Corps’ University Monument Committee. Several modest suggestions were made by the MCU Committee and the **design and construction have now been fully approved.**

The memorial obelisk will have a large granite slab over 6 feet in height, 34 inches wide and 10 inches in depth. Polished on two sides, on one side will be a large Marine Corps emblem (Eagle, Globe and Anchor) highlighted with gold and silver lithochrome. A short one paragraph of the 53 year history of Force Recon in the Corps is engraved into the stone below. It was difficult to compress the diverse and complex history into one paragraph, but with help from Historians at Marine Corps University the following was approved:

Forged during World War II, Marine Corps Reconnaissance units began in the Amphibious Reconnaissance Battalion, Fleet Marine Force, which made 200 night landings in small groups preceding all major amphibious landings in the Pacific Theater. Intelligence from these landings saved many lives. Relegated to company size during the intervening years, Force Reconnaissance Companies were established in June 1957 and were the primary reconnaissance resource within the Fleet Marine Force for the next 53 years. In 2006, Marine Force Reconnaissance companies were deactivated. The Marines and equipment were sent to form new units in the Marine Corps Forces Special Operations Command and Marine Special Operations Battalions. In Vietnam, and later in Iraq, Africa and Afghanistan, Marine Corps Force Reconnaissance personnel carried on the rich traditions of their World War II predecessors. This monument is gratefully dedicated to Reconnaissance Marines, Corpsmen and their families; past, present and future.

Below the emblem and above history, there will be two generic patches: the left side patch will be “Force Recon”, on the right side will be a generic “Marine Forces, Special Operations Command” patch. (This arrangement of the two patches side-by-side, reflects the folding of the colors of the major Force Recon Companies and the immediate activation with the same Marines and Corpsmen into the newly established 1st and 2nd of what have become MARSOC battalions).

On the other polished side (opposite the side with the Globe and Anchor, History and Patches) will be engraved into the granite, a set of gold Parachute Wings, with a silver Dive bubble mounted above. Both of these will be highlighted with gold and silver lithochrome (now an accepted standard for all military monuments and memorials). Below the wings and dive bubble will be the simple inscription:

**DEDICATED TO
FORCE RECONNAISSANCE AND
SPECIAL OPERATIONS
MARINES, CORPSMEN AND
THEIR FAMILIES**

The entire 6 plus foot obelisk described above will rest on a base of two levels whose footprint is slightly less than the maximum of 9 square feet permitted under the Marine Semper Fi park requirements for construction. Purposely there are no names or sub-elements of Force Recon or MARSOC on the monument. It was felt the simplicity and design tells the viewer all that needs be said!

Initial bids were in the \$ 18-20,00 range. Col. Meyers was able to get a bid and a great design, with all the stone cutting, engraving and shipping for \$ 5,500, shipping included. Visits were made to examples of this Memorial Company, that they have done for Army Stryker Brigade Units throughout Alaska, Hawaii and the States.

SgtMaj.King and Col. Meyers opted to have a representative from the factory come to Quantico for the erection, since a crane and crew were required (this comes to 3,000). Finally, the MC Heritage Foundation requires a \$1,000 escrow fee be paid in for future maintenance. With tax, the total cost will be about \$11,500.00. Before the final approval was received on 12 May, SgtMaj. King and Col. Meyers had already raised \$1,400!

Donation checks should be made to “Bruce F. Meyers.” USAA Federal Savings Bank has generously donated a checking account for the raising of these moneys. The special account will be handled by Attorney Bruce Meyers [in his “second life”] in much like a “Attorney Trust Account” to ensure full disclosure for any question on disbursements.

This is a great opportunity to show our strong affiliation that “Force Recon” has meant to all of us. Comments from all who have seen the design drawings have been enthusiastic. We all look forward to moving ahead on the construction and erection, now that we have full approval from the Marine Corps. Thank You! Semper Fi!

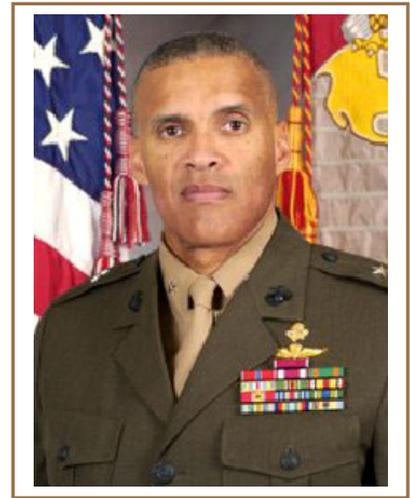
CHECKS PAYABLE TO “BRUCE F. MEYERS”

RECON 2010 Guest Speaker

Major General James L. Williams **Commanding General, 4th Marine Division**

Major General James L. Williams is currently serving as Commanding General, 4th Marine Division.

MajGen Williams' assumed command of the 4th Marine Division on 28 April 2007. His previous assignment was as Deputy Commanding General (Mobilization), Marine Corps Combat Development Command (MCCDC). He also served as the ADC, 2d Marine Division from 2005-2006, at Camp Blue Diamond, Ar-Ramadi, Iraq.



Major General Williams was born in Bethlehem, Pennsylvania. He received a B.S degree from Slippery Rock University, PA, in 1975. He reported to Officer Candidate School in January 1976, and received his commission in March 1976. He received Master's degrees from Georgetown University in Government and National Security Affairs in 1981, from Yale University in Hospital Management/Public Health in 1984, and from the U.S. Army War College in International Security Studies in 2000. Currently, he is in the process of working on his Master's Degree in Computer Engineering and Computer Science.

Upon completion of The Basic School, Quantico, VA, in 1976, he was subsequently assigned in December 1976 to the 3rd Marine Division to serve with 3rd Battalion, 9th Marines.

Returning from overseas in January 1978, he reported to 2nd Force Troops (now 2nd Marine Logistics Group), as the Assistant Command Inspector. He subsequently was assigned to 2nd Force Reconnaissance Company as a Force Recon Platoon Leader and deployed several times for NATO exercises. During this period he attended reconnaissance training schools.

In January 1979, he was transferred to Marine Barracks, Washington, D.C. He was promoted to Captain in September 1980.

In August 1981, he was assigned to the Reserve component of the Marine Corps and was assigned to duty with the 14th Marines where he served with 2nd Battalion, 14th Marines, 4th Marine Division as a Forward Observer, Battery Executive Officer, Battery Commanding Officer, and Battalion Logistics Officer. While with the 14th Marines, in 1986, he was the recipient of the Outstanding Junior Marine Corps Reserve Officer Award presented by the Reserve Officers Association. He was promoted to Major in October 1987. He also completed graduate school at Yale University during this period in 1984.

He was then assigned to the 4th Reconnaissance Battalion in October 1988, where he served as the Battalion Operations and Training Officer, Battalion Diving Officer, and Executive Officer. During 1990-1991, the Battalion was called to duty for Operation Desert Shield/Storm. One reconnaissance company was assigned to lead the reconnaissance efforts for both the 1st and 2nd Divisions in their attacks on Iraq. The remainder of the Battalion was assigned to conduct counter-narcotics operations in CONUS and OCONUS. In 1991, he attended the Marine Corps Reserve Command and Staff College Course as a student.

In 1992, he completed school and was assigned to the 4th Marine Division as Assistant Operations Officer. In July 1993, he completed the Air Command and Staff College Reserve Component Course. In October 1993, he was assigned as the Assistant G-6. He was promoted to Lieutenant Colonel in October 1994. In September 1995, he was assigned as Commanding Officer, 1st Battalion, 23rd Marines. In 1997, the battalion was assigned to the 1st Marine Regiment, 1st Marine Division for Kernal Blitz '97. He was selected in July 1997, to attend the U.S. Army War College Distant Education Program. He was promoted to Colonel in October 1998.

He was then selected and assigned to be the Deputy Commander, 1st Marine Expeditionary Force Augmentation Command Element (I MACE) in April 2000. In July 2000, he graduated from the U.S. Army War College. In 2002, while in this assignment he was assigned as the Deputy Director, Operations CJTF-180, conducting combat operations in Afghanistan for Operation Enduring Freedom. He was promoted to current rank of Major General June 2007.

From 2003-2005 he served as the Commander, 1st Marine Expeditionary Force Augmentation Command Element (I MACE), during this period he served as the Acting Commanding General, I Marine Expeditionary Force at Camp Pendleton, and was subsequently assigned as the Deputy Commanding General, I MEF (Forward) at Camp Fallujah, Iraq.



**Force Recon
Association
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**Executive Director's

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**Send Hooch Orders to:
MAC - Supply Chief
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Rowe, MA 01367**

**Hooch Order Forms at:
www.forcerecon.com**

**Info to the CommChief
Stephen Luebbert send to:
Commchief@Forcerecon.com**

We're on the Web!

See us at:

www.ForceRecon.com

Back Page Info

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" via the Communications Chief at commchief@forcerecon.com.

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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