

SITREP

VOLUME 21 ISSUE 1 MARCH 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 exact itinerary is still being finalized. The registration and itinerary will be posted in the next

SitRep, which is scheduled to be released no later than mid-June.

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 “Past PRESIDENT”

I wanted to share a cool story with you. As you know I have about a week to go in Afghanistan. General Stanley McChrystal came to my remote base today to visit our Marines. In August of 2009 we arrived in Shewan Afghanistan and the security situation was so bad that General McChrystal could not visit this



location. The Taliban had over four hundred fighters in Shewan and several coalition and Afghan Soldiers were killed by Taliban forces in this village. We conducted the largest Special Forces mission ever executed in Afghanistan. The mission was to take the village of Shewan back from the Taliban. The operation involved over 125 Special Forces Soldiers and 700 Afghan Soldiers. I was the Ground Force Commander (GFC) for the entire operation. Unfortunately - we had one Marine and three Afghan Soldiers killed in action during the operation.

The fighting lasted for four days and sixty five enemy fighters were killed. The next three months we spent our time focusing on rebuilding Shewan. Our Marines and Soldiers worked hand in hand with the local Afghan leaders and awarded several contracts to rebuild the village and create jobs. The process wasn't easy. We had to show the local populace that we were an attractive option to Taliban rule. We built three schools, repaired roads, and jump started the local economy. We assisted with several agricultural projects aimed at stopping the flow of illegal poppy farming. Getting a farmer to switch from profitable poppy to wheat proved to be challenging, but not impossible.

Gen McChrystal said "six months ago the security situation in Shewan was so bad that I couldn't visit this location. Your Marines have done some amazing work here and the people of Afghanistan will not forget it. The American people are proud of you". The General walked around the village talking with local Afghan leaders and thanked my Marines for a job well done. I have enclosed a picture of General McChrystal and me surrounded by my interpreters. We are ready to come home. I will look back on this tour in Afghanistan with good and bad memories. My only regret will be getting on an airplane and not bringing everyone home with me.

I look forward to seeing you soon. Sarah said that you might link up with her in the next few days? I hope that the shot show went well? I just turned over my AO to MSOC B and now we will pack our gear and wait for a flight home.

I will see you soon,

Sincerely Andy



Letter from your “EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR”

GREETINGS! Another ‘new’ year is upon us and I hope that this NEW YEAR brings peace and prosperity to all.

I am happy to report that our last reunion at QUANTICO was a success. We benefited from being able to take advantage of many of the facilities while we were onboard the base. I have to say that it was unfortunate that we were not able to attend a static display at HMX1, because the squadron was ordered to prepare for a deployment which was ordered by the President.

Our members have told me that they really enjoyed their time at the other venues we offered them. The FBI range was a winner, thanks to Joe Kowalski and all the effort he put into making that event run smoothly. The majority of the ladies in attendance showed that they are not afraid to handle any one of the weapons that were available for them to use. In fact being a witness to how the ladies shoot, makes me believe that there is a growing pattern taking place. It appears that they are all honing their shooting skills. Hey guys, that could be a double edged sword! And I imagine that we will be seeing lots of the ladies out on the range when we visit Camp Pendleton in September.

The people at the RAIDS/RECON were more than happy to share their facility with us. Many of the members have told me that they felt as if they had ‘come-back-home’, just being at RAIDS/RECON among the ACTIVE DUTY MARINES. The staff has expressed to me that they would enjoy having us back whenever we return to QUANTICO.

The event which seems to have stood out the most however, was the reception at the MARINE CORPS MUSEUM. For many of our members, it was the first time many of them had ever visited the museum. I have to admit that the first time I ventured into the museum; I was more than a little taken back. The displays and the atmosphere were at times overwhelming and I found myself visiting the past. I heard many of our members express the same feelings.

It was expressed to me, that the reception, was the best event that many of our members had ever attended. THANKS to the staff of the museum, we were all given many great memories of that night. The only people missing, were Major Andy CHRISTIAN and his wife Sarah.

As many of you know, Major CHRISTIAN deployed just before our annual reunion, to Afghanistan. Major Christian may not have been there in person, but he was in spirit. I missed his leadership and the positive attitude he always displays. I know that all of us are waiting for the time that Andy rotates back home with his unit. Unfortunately, Andy lost his mother last October. He was unable to attend the funeral, and asked that I stand in for him. That was an honor and the least I could do for him. He has commanded one of the most successful operations since our troops were deployed to Afghanistan in 2001, which doesn’t surprise me. Andy always leads from the ‘front’.

The plans for our annual reunion in San Diego are already well underway. RECON 2010 will be hosted again at the HOLIDAY INN on the BAY. We have already negotiated a great price for the rooms. They will

cost \$115.00 per night for our members. The dates for the reunion will be September 8th through the 11th. More details concerning the events that will take place during the reunion, will be shown in the next SITREP.

****** Reservations at the hotel will be taken at anytime from now until the cut-off date, 8/9/10. The code to use for reservations is: FRA. You can call 1-800-877 8920 to make your reservations. The sooner you make your reservations, the better. ******

Finally, I would like to express my THANKS to all of you who have helped me while I have been the Association's Executive Director. I have to admit that there have been some very trying times for me, and there have been some complaints at times. Fortunately those complaints have been very few and are always from the same people. Remember, the GUNNY always said that there "will always be that 10%!" And, I guess he was right. Again THANK YOU ALL.

I am looking forward to seeing as many of you as possible at the next reunion and hopefully, Andy will be there with his entire unit for all of us to **WELCOME HOME!**

Take care, be safe, have a great NEW YEAR. SEMPER FI! JIM MCKEE



Letter from your "Treasurer"

To the Board of Directors and the Members of Force Recon Association:

The Balance Sheet and Profit & Loss statement are for fiscal year ending September 30, 2009. They reflect the Association's financial position as of 9/30/09 and what transpired during the fiscal year. These financials were prepared in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles and are a compilation of information provided to me by the respective persons who have fiduciary responsibility for their cost center. Any questions regarding the FRA financials should be directed to me.

Respectfully Submitted,
Elliot "JJ" Rubinfeld Treas.
FRA# 1161

	<u>Balance Sheet</u>	<u>Sep 30, 09</u>	<u>Profit / Loss</u>	<u>Oct '08 - Sep 09</u>
ASSETS			Ordinary Income/Expense	
Current Assets			Income	
Checking/Savings			Donation Income	6,023.51
Bank Of America A/C		21,832.13	Membership Dues	31,155.00
CASH A/C		740.00	MEMORABILIA SALES	5,799.57
CHECKING UNION BANK		34,266.10	RECON-2009	26,606.33
SCHOLARSHIP 0875		20,851.26	SCHOLARSHIP INCOME	<u>22,072.76</u>
SCHOLARSHIP 4428		30,861.17	Total Income	91,657.17
SCHOLARSHIP 6153		<u>2,363.30</u>	Expense	
Total Checking/Savings		110,913.96	Bank Service Charges	845.00
Other Current Assets			Contributions	5,133.87
INVENTORY		<u>6,555.00</u>	Insurance	
Total Other Current Assets		<u>6,555.00</u>	Liability Insurance	<u>1,401.00</u>
Total Current Assets		117,468.96	Total Insurance	1,401.00
Fixed Assets			MEM. OFFICE EXPENSE	108.82
FURNITURE & FIXTURES			Mem.purchases	4,565.75
Depreciation		-7,711.00	Miscellaneous	7,910.25
Original Cost		<u>7,711.00</u>	Office Supplies	6,338.97
Total FURNITURE & FIXTURES		<u>0.00</u>	Postage and Delivery	2,045.88
Total Fixed Assets		<u>0.00</u>	RECON 2008	1,418.74
TOTAL ASSETS		<u>117,468.96</u>	RECON 2009	23,028.13
LIABILITIES & EQUITY			SATELLITE	911.28
Liabilities			SCHOLARSHIP AWARDS	15,000.00
Current Liabilities			SCHOLARSHIP EXPENSES	4,036.20
Other Current Liabilities			Telephone	803.70
ACCRUED LIAB		<u>15,000.00</u>	Travel & Ent	
Total Other Current Liabilities		<u>15,000.00</u>	Travel	<u>2,471.08</u>
Total Current Liabilities		15,000.00	Total Travel & Ent	2,471.08
Long Term Liabilities			Utilities	<u>699.76</u>
DEFERRED GAINS(LOSS)		<u>2,112.73</u>	Total Expense	<u>76,718.43</u>
Total Long Term Liabilities		<u>2,112.73</u>	Net Ordinary Income	14,938.74
Total Liabilities		17,112.73	Other Income/Expense	
Equity			Other Expense	
Opening Bal Equity		48,901.00	Other Expenses	
Retained Earnings		36,516.49	GAIN - (LOSS) ON SCHOLARSHIP	<u>0.00</u>
Net Income		<u>14,938.74</u>	Total Other Expenses	<u>0.00</u>
Total Equity		<u>100,356.23</u>	Total Other Expense	<u>0.00</u>
TOTAL LIABILITIES & EQUITY		<u>117,468.96</u>	Net Other Income	<u>0.00</u>
			Net Income	<u>14,938.74</u>

Letter from your “Secretary”

General Membership Meeting Minutes

Saturday, September 12, 2009

Crossroads Inn

Quantico, Virginia

Recon 2009

CALL TO ORDER. President-Elect Allan Bierlein called the General Membership Meeting to order at 1200 hours. (President Andy Christian was deployed in country.)

OPENING REMARKS. President-Elect Allan Bierlein welcomed everyone to Recon 2009.

THE FOLLOWING ROUTINE ANNUAL REPORTS WERE GIVEN:

1. **EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT** by Jim McKee.
2. **HOOCH REPORT** by Jim McKee.
3. **SCHOLARSHIP COMMITTEE'S REPORT** by Wayne Lingenfelter.
4. **TREASURER'S REPORT** by JJ Rubenfeld.

THE FOLLOWING ITEMS WERE DISCUSSED:

5. The need to develop an organized transition of new officers.
6. The updating of FRA bylaws is now in progress during 2010.
7. It was confirmed that future reunions will continue to alternate between the east and west coasts and facility arrangements for future reunions remain under review by the Board of Directors.
8. The Executive Board will explore ways to provide the Executive Director some relief with the paperwork associated with his duties.
9. Negotiations will be conducted with Sgt. Grit to explore the possibility of running the Hootch through his company.

ELECTIONS

The following listing of members represent the FRA Executive Committee, Board of Directors, and Scholarship Committee for 2010-2011:

Allan Bierlein, FRA President
Jim McKee, Executive Director
JJ Rubenfeld, Treasurer
Andy Christian, Immediate Past President
Bob Rowen, Board Member
John Baker, Board Member
Wayne Pilny, Board Member
Mou Pau, Board Member
George Saitta (President appointed), Board Member
Wayne Lingenfelter (President appointed), Board Member
Wayne Lingenfelter, Scholarship Committee Chariman
Al Sniadecki, Scholarship Committee Co-Chariman
JJ Rubenfeld, Scholarship Committee member
John Baker, Scholarship Committee member

James F. Doner, Vice President
Lou Kern, Secretary
Al Sniadecki, President Elect

Mike Misko, Board Member
Todd Smalenberg, Board Member
Charles Buchholz, Board Member
Al Rodriqz, Board Member

ADJOURNMENT. The meeting was adjourned at 1415 hours.

Respectfully submitted,

Bob Rowen #2722
FRA Secretary

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.

TAPs and Remembrance



Roger Hager #1339 KIA 8 JUL 2009 OEF

John Hayes #0987 KIA 8 JUL 2009 OEF

Michael Roy #1041 KIA 8 JUL 2009 OEF

Thomas Bachta #219 Died 24 July 2009 Cancer

James Studnicka #1959 Died 19 Aug 2009 in his sleep while recovering from heart surgery.

Joshua Meadows #859 KIA 5 SEP 2009 OEF

Ricky Fooshee #2897 Died 1 OCT 2009 Pancreatic Cancer

William Ramey #1609 Died 25 Oct 2009 - Lung Cancer

Troy Mitchell #1819 Died 29 Oct 2009 Shot during a robbery

E. O'Keefe #486 Died 19 Jan 2010, Skydiving Accident, at age 70



You Will Be Missed and Never Forgotten.





**Force Recon
Association
P.O. Box 425
Rowe, MA 01367**

**Executive Director's

(413) 339-4346**

**Send Hooch Orders to:
MAC - Supply Chief
PO Box 425
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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