

# SITREP

VOLUME 31 ISSUE 1 JANUARY 2019

LINK FOREVER THOSE WHO SERVED TOGETHER

NEWSLETTER OF THE

FORCE RECON



ASSOCIATION  
U.S. MARINE CORPS

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## REMINDER!

- Dues are due in January each year. You can visit our web site and pay online with PayPal.
- 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.
- An electronic version (Adobe pdf) of the FRA Member Roster is also available at no charge. Send an email request to [CommChief@ForceRecon.com](mailto:CommChief@ForceRecon.com)



## Letter from your President

### PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE – January 2019

On behalf of the FRA Board and Executive Committee, I want to wish each of our Recon Brothers a healthy, prosperous, and peaceful 2019!

With 2018 now in the history books, I would like to take a few minutes and reflect on the past year and review some of the successes the FRA has been able to accomplish. 2018 was a year of several 'firsts' for

the FRA that would not have happened without the efforts of several FRA members who put in the time and effort to get these activities completed. In particular, I want to acknowledge two of our members for their continued outstanding efforts on behalf of the FRA. Many of us, including me, did not realize that **our CommChief, Steve Luebbert, has been 'at his post' since 2003!** Also, many are unaware that behind the scenes, Steve keeps the website up and running, keeps our member database current, responds regularly to your questions/concerns sent his way and generates the documents we need to communicate to you, including this SITREP. This year, he has led the effort to FINALLY get PayPal installed on our website, so now we have an electronic option for paying dues and/or other fees. I simply cannot express how appreciative I am to have Steve on our team and on our Board. The second individual I want to recognize is our current Executive Director, Dave Jarvis. Dave (and chief support officer, Tina Jarvis) led the planning and execution of the first joint FRA annual reunion combined with the Recon Challenge competition held at Camp Pendleton. It proved to be yet another very memorable event for those in attendance and resulted in over thirty (30) new FRA members joining during our memorial dinner. Without the efforts of our brothers like Steve and Dave, the FRA simply does not function. Finally, I want to acknowledge and express my continued gratitude for the FRA team that serves as your Board of Directors. Even though several Board Directors are active duty, they have gone "above and beyond" to make sure they participate on our Board calls, charity decisions and other matters of governance for the FRA. On behalf of all the FRA, THANK YOU, gentlemen!

Finally, we convey our continued gratitude and a special "welcome home" to all of our Reconnaissance Marines, MARSOC Marines and Corpsmen returning from deployments overseas. To our Brother and Sisters still engaged in the fight, we offer our prayers for "Peace on Earth" and best wishes for your safe return to your families and loved ones. Semper Fidelis!

**NEWEST FRA BOARD MEMBER: Captain DAVID POPE (USMC ret.)**

I am very pleased to announce that the FRA Board formally approved David Pope (FRA #2037) as our new FRA Board Secretary. David served twenty years in the Corps (1976-1996); initially enlisted and later commissioned and retired with the rank of Captain. After the Marine Corps, David held multiple senior management positions with several civilian defense contractors as well as earning several university degrees. With David's installation as Board Secretary, this is the first time in several years that we now have a full Board of Directors to run our Association. Thank you, David, and to all our Board for their service to our Community of Recon Marines and Sailors!

**PAYPAL ONLINE PAYMENT OPTION NOW FULLY OPERATIONAL!**

At the beginning of 2018, I announced that one of the key goals for the year was to implement an online payment feature that our members could use to pay dues, make contributions, and register for FRA events. Congratulations again, to our CommChief, Steve Luebbert, for making it happen! We were able to announce the introduction of PayPal to our members just before the 2019 dues statements were mailed and I am pleased to see that many of our members have already taken advantage of this online convenience. Steve is still researching other potential uses for our new payment partner and as we discover new PayPal tools, we will communicate the information to the membership.

Finally, **PLEASE** let us know if you have moved, changed email addresses, got a new telephone number etc. We try very hard to maintain good contact information on all of our members, but if you fail to let us know of a change in your HQ, we have no way of finding you! You can email any new information to [Commchief@forcerecon.com](mailto:Commchief@forcerecon.com), or to [alsniadecki@netzero.net](mailto:alsniadecki@netzero.net), or to [jarvisda77@gmail.com](mailto:jarvisda77@gmail.com). We will see to it that your new contact information gets into our database. Also, you can fill out the "OPERATION DATA CLEANUP" sheet included in this newsletter and mail it in.

Again, thank you to our FRA members who supported our organization in 2018 and helped us serve our motto to "Link forever those who served together." Semper Fidelis!

Al Sniadecki  
President



## A Message from your Executive Director

**Happy New Year!**

I hope everyone had a pleasant Holiday Season with family and friends! I can't believe it's already time to start planning for our 2019 FRA Reunion. Mark your calendars, as our reunion dates are set for 4-8 September 2019, in the Camp Lejeune, North Carolina area. I'll be conducting a site survey in mid-March to solidify our lodging and excursions. You can expect a detailed schedule to be sent out by the end of spring.

This coming year will be a busy one. We start off by attending the Annual SHOT Show in Las Vegas. As many of you know, we receive over half of our charity auction items from this event. It's also a great time to say thanks to our loyal sponsors.

Additionally, we will be conducting fundraising events in support of our 501c3 charity, the Force Reconnaissance Foundation (FRF). In June, I will be joining my Brothers from my former Recon platoon in Afghanistan to climb Mount Baker just outside of Bellingham, Washington in support of the FRF. We have named the event the 2019 Mount Baker Recon Challenge. As many of you may have seen in my last message, we're raising funds, not only to assist with the logistics of the climb, but also for our Foundation. Our goal is to reach 100K! With a few extra bucks in the bank, we'll be able to increase our scholarship contributions and assist our active duty, veterans and their families, as needed. The first fundraiser will be held at Club Leatherneck in Las Vegas on March 9th. Our Treasurer, Jim McGaughey will be spearheading this event. Our second event is targeted for Dallas, Texas area in mid-May. Your President, Al Sniadecki will take the helm of this event. Expect a newsletter with all the details to be sent out 30 days prior to each event. We'd love for you to join us! For more information, please contact me, Al, or you can visit the website: <https://2019bakerreconchallenge.us>

Those of you who attended our last reunion know that it was a real treat to see our active duty and reserve Reconnaissance Men compete in the Annual Recon Challenge. This year, the 11th Annual Recon Challenge will take place aboard Camp Pendleton, California on May 16, 2019. If you're in the area, stop by to support our Brothers! More information can be found at: [trngcmd.marines.mil](http://trngcmd.marines.mil)

Over the last year, Al Sniadecki and I built a power point presentation articulating our Associations history, mission, scholarship program and comprehensive list of charitable causes to which the FRA and FRF have contributed. A big thanks to one of our newest Board Members, MGySgt Cory Paskvan, who has agreed to deliver this presentation at a briefing to all of the current Recon Commanders and their staff at the Recon Operational Advisory Group (ROAG). The purpose of this is to inform the leadership on how we can continue to provide support to their Marines and Sailors, and to encourage new memberships from our current Recon community.

Lastly, I want to acknowledge and congratulate again, our 2018 FRA Active/Reserve Team Leaders of the Year (TLOY) and our 2018 FRA Instructor of the Year (IOTY):

**Team Leaders of the Year:**

GySgt Jack Hausmann: Force Reconnaissance Detachment, 1st Reconnaissance Bataillon

SSgt Jordan Leach: 2nd Force Reconnaissance Company

SSgt Nicholas Carney: Force Reconnaissance Company, III Marine Expeditionary Force

Sgt Peyton Whitted: 4th Force Reconnaissance Company

**Instructor of the Year:**

SSgt Ben Lebidine: Course Chief, Basic Reconnaissance Course

I look forward to seeing many of you at the fundraisers and at our next reunion! Semper Fidelis,

Dave Jarvis

Executive Director

[Jarvisda77@gmail.com](mailto:Jarvisda77@gmail.com)



Sgt Peyton Whitted: 4th Force Reconnaissance Company



SSgt Jordan Leach : 2nd Force Reconnaissance Company



SSgt Nicholas Carney: Force Reconnaissance Company, III Marine Expeditionary Force

**OPERATION DATA CLEANUP:**

***Please help us Update your Information!!!!***

We need your help with updating our FRA membership database. When many of our members signed up with the FRA, the information provided was incomplete...especially relative to full service dates. Many of our Vietnam and preVietnam Veterans provided service dates for only the time they served in a Recon unit. We have many members who served more than one enlistment and many who retired from the military, but our information is incomplete. **Please take the time to complete the information below and email back to**

**[Commchief@forcerecon.com](mailto:Commchief@forcerecon.com) or mail it back to  
FRA, P.O. BOX 111000, Carrollton, TX 75011.**

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

**FRA MEMBER #:** \_\_\_\_\_

**MAILING ADDRESS:** \_\_\_\_\_

**TELEPHONE:** \_\_\_\_\_

**EMAIL ADDRESS:** (print clearly) \_\_\_\_\_

**PLEASE PROVIDE ALL DATES SERVED IN THE MILITARY AND THE BRANCH OF SERVICE (FOR EXAMPLE: USMC: 5/1966-2/1969, OR USMC:1957-59 AND ARMY 1960-1891). IF EXACT DATES ARE NOT KNOWN, USE YEARS ONLY.**

**PLEASE PROVIDE UNIT NAMES AND SERVICE DATES FOR ALL MARINE RECON UNITS YOU SERVED WITH (FOR EXAMPLE: 5<sup>TH</sup> FORCE RECON 10/1966-11/67, 3<sup>RD</sup> FORCE RECON 12/1967 -1/1969, 3<sup>RD</sup> RECON BN 2/1969-4/1971). IF EXACT DATES ARE NOT KNOWN, USE YEARS ONLY.**

## **2019 Membership Criteria**

### **Annual Dues - \$40**

**Regular Members:**

Regular Members include 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, Marine Division Reconnaissance Battalions, Regular or Reserve, Amphibious Reconnaissance units between 1943 and 1958, Test Unit One, and Special Mission Units. Only Regular Members shall have voting rights and serve as officers or on the Board of Directors of the Corporation.

**Associate Members:**

Associate Members include civilians and veterans of the U.S. Armed Forces and Allies who do not meet the "Regular Member" requirements as stipulated above, but who did make a significant contribution to the development of, 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 Corporation. Associate Members do not have voting rights and may not serve as officers or on the Board of Directors of the Corporation.



## **TAPs and Remembrance**



Howard L. "Howie" Burling II FRA# 1798	Died 19 MAY 2018
William E. "Bill" Block FRA# 28	Died 02 JUN 2018
Terrence L. Moore FRA# 520	Died 09 JUN 2018
James R. "Stubbie" Larsen FRA# 420	Died 30 JUN 2018
Mrs. Patsy Branch, wife of Billy T. Branch FRA #25	Died 27 JUL 2018
Barry D. "Swamprat" Forrest FRA# 2649	Died 18 OCT 2018



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



**Force Recon  
Association  
P.O. Box 111000  
Carrollton, TX 75011**

**FRA Memorabilia:  
I Need It Now Trophies  
<https://ineeditnowtrophies.co/>**

**Info to the CommChief  
Stephen Luebbert send to:  
[Commchief@Forcerecon.com](mailto:Commchief@Forcerecon.com)**

**FRA Scholarship Info:  
See FRA Web Site**

**We're on the Web!**

See us at:

**[www.ForceRecon.com](http://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. Our mission and our motto is "Link Forever Those Who Served Together"

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 or Reserve.

We welcome both individual and corporate donors to contribute to our FRA Scholarship Fund and the FRA Assistance Fund. For more information regarding either of these Funds or to make a contribution, please contact the Chairman of the Scholarship and Assistance Funds via the [Commchief@forcerecon.com](mailto:Commchief@forcerecon.com)

Founders: Patrick "Pat" J. Ryan; Thomas "Tom" L. Gibson; and Ernie "Gunny" DeFazio (Deceased).

### *Board of Directors and Officers: 2018-2020*

Al Sniadecki  
President

Paul Clifford  
Vice President

David Pope  
Secretary

James McGaughey III  
Treasurer

David Jarvis  
Executive Director

Steve Luebbert  
Communications Chief

Collin Barry  
Director

Billy Branch  
Director

Cody Carroll  
Director

Cory Paskvan  
Director

Patrick Zuber  
Director

**CUSTOMER NAME  
STREET ADDRESS  
CITY, STATE, 00000  
LABEL HERE**

