

SITREP

NEWSLETTER OF THE FORCE RECON ASSOCIATION, INC.
U.S. MARINE CORPS
VOL. XXII NO. 1 SUMMER 2002

Recon 2002

August 21st – 25th, Arlington, Virginia



Quality Hotel Courthouse Plaza
1200 North Courthouse Road
Arlington, Virginia 22201
703-524-4000 Fax 703-522-6814
Reservations 800-228-5151

Maps of the immediate and surrounding areas are available in the hotel lobby.

Note: It is recommended that, for reservations, you call Judy Wayland at 703 247-1005 or 703 524-4000 ext. 6680, provide the Code Word "Marine" and be sure you are given a Confirmation Number.

Recon 2002 Activity Schedule

While the majority of events, activities, etc., scheduled for our August 2002 Annual Meeting/Reunion, are, as of mid-May 2002, reasonably firm, some, for various reasons, cannot be firmed-up until just prior to the meeting.

Accordingly, please pay particular attention to the Notes following each days schedule.

For residents in the Quality Suites building, a Free Continental Breakfast will be available each morning from 0700-0830 in the Club Royal on the 8th floor opposite the elevators.

The Hotel Pool will be open for guest use between the hours of 0900-2100 daily. Guests are advised that glass containers are not allowed in or around the area of the pool

Tuesday, August 20th

Free Time	Shopping & Sightseeing
Golf	MCB Quantico, VA.
Shooters	MCB Quantico, VA.
Ladies Club	White House Tour
	Shopping and Lunch
1900-2030	Sunset Parade – Iwo Jima Marine War Memorial

Notes:

If you'd like to participate in either the Golf Outing or fire the FBI Small Arms Range, contact Wayne Pilny as soon as possible at 419 797-4348, or by E-mail at wspilny@thirdplanet.net.

Participation in either activity is on a First Come First Served basis, so sign up now.

Golf – A minimum of 60 players is necessary to have exclusive use of the MCCA golf course at Quantico. Since, as we go to press, less than 20 of our members have indicated their desire to play, special arrangements are necessary to, hopefully, accommodate them.

continued on page 4.



Fellow FRA Members,

It's been nine months since our last reunion in Louisville, KY. Our next reunion in Arlington, Virginia is quickly approaching. None of this could have been accomplished without

the reunion committee of **Wayne and Nancy Pilny; Col. Gordie Keiser; and Col. John Ripley**. Their efforts to put this reunion together are greatly appreciated. All of the dates and costs of the reunion are included in this SITREP. We strongly urge you to get your reservations in as early as possible. We currently have over 150 members signed up for RECON 2002.

We have 400 tickets for seats to the Commandants 8th and I parade on Friday, August 23, 2002. These tickets will be reserved as the registration forms are received. There are many exciting events planned as you will read in this SITREP.

A special thanks to **Hal and Kathy Leach** for organizing and editing our past two SITREP's.

Thanks also to our CommChief, **Chuck Ascher**, who most of you have spoken to at one time or another, handles our day-to-day communication with the public, FRA members, and active duty Marines. Chuck handles 50-100 e-mails each day. His time and efforts are greatly appreciated.

Steve Luebbert, our web-master works on a daily basis to keep the Recon Community abreast of past memories and current activities. Keep up the good work and thanks Steve.

John Baker and the scholarship committee are looking forward to receiving this year's applications. Our association has given away over \$50,000.00 in cash grants over the years. Applications can be downloaded at our website (www.forcerecon.com). Applications must be received by July 30, 2002 to be considered for this year.

We have our first corporate sponsor this year, Zodiac Rubber Boats, North American. FRA member Rick Scriven, Vice-President of Commercial Boat Sales has donated a **three-man rubber boat** and fifty t-shirts, proceeds to benefit the scholarship fund. On behalf of the FRA members I want to publicly thank Rick and the Zodiac Corporation for their generous contribution.

Letter from your president

This year's "Hootch" has many new items for sale. We have taken member's suggestions in to account in stocking these new items. Don't forget that the "Hootch" and membership dues only support the FRA.

Your registration fee for Recon 2002 pays for items in your participant's packet, reunion insurance and essentials such as transportation of the "Hootch" to the reunion site. Enclosed in this SITREP is the new "Hootch" order form. The order form can also be downloaded at our website. Please only use this form for ordering items as the other will no longer be accepted.

The Ladies Club continues to support the FRA and this year will sponsor the "Welcome to D.C." cocktail party on Wednesday evening, to which all attendees are invited. The Ladies will also have their silent "auction". The club also accepts donations and thanks to **Ed McCourt** for his generosity.

For our next reunion in Hawaii, **Joe Tablada, Ed McCourt** and **Sam Moyer** are heading the reunion committee. Sam will give a presentation at the general membership meeting about next year's activities.

Also, thank you to **Jim Studnicka**, #1959 who has agreed to be chairman for our Audit Committee and **Art Torizzo** for agreeing to be our Picture Historian.

Finally, I would like to thank each member of the Board of Directors and the Executive Committee and all of the other members who have given me their support, confidence and loyalty as our President. Thanks to each of you who each day work and strive to, "Link Together Those Who Served Together". I look forward to seeing all of you this August in Arlington, Virginia at RECON 2002.

I am always available to you:

Phone: (209) 607-5227

E-Mail: sasser@starband.net

I remain, Semper Fidelis,

Dick Sasser, #1795

President, Force Recon Association



Force Recon Association, Inc.
The Force Recon Association, Inc., (FRA) was formally established on 21 September 1989, as a non-profit, fraternal veterans association, in accordance with the 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.

The FRA strives to maintain and foster fellowship, comradeship and perpetuate the ideals and professionalism between and among its members and members of Marine Force Reconnaissance companies, both Regular and Reserve.

And, in extraordinary cases, provides benevolent assistance to its members.

Motto

“Link Forever Those Who Served Together”

Founders

Patrick “Pat” J. Ryan
Thomas “Tom” L. Gibson
Ernie “Gunny” DeFazio (Deceased)

Board of Directors

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Nelson Donley	Term Expires 2002
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Official Publication

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Disclaimer

Articles appearing in the SITREP are published, “as written”. They may, however, be reformatted to conform to the SITREP format.

Statements, opinions, etc. expressed, are entirely those of the author/submitter and do not necessarily represent those of the United States Marine Corps, the Force Recon Association or its members.

Articles submitted for publication which are considered, all or in part, in poor taste, unsigned, inaccurate, false, etc. will not be published.

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“In war, Marines lend dignity to what would otherwise be a vulgar brawl”

“The phrase refers to cavalry, and comes from a Punch (magazine) cartoon of two languid (British) officers talking to each other.

The first says something like, "What is the function of cavalry in war?" To which the other replies along the lines of, "I suppose it must be to add tone to what would otherwise be a vulgar brawl!"

I'm not certain whether it is of Crimean War vintage, but it is certainly mid-Victorian.

Best regards, Mike”

(Michael Hargreave Mawson, Crimean War Research Society)

Notes: Continued from page 1.

Golf Outing information will be posted in the Hospitality Rooms.

Shooters – Arrangements have been made for our members to fire the FBI Small Arms range at 1100. Shooters will be “run through” a simulator, NFI, and then fire pistols and SMGs. Transportation for golfers and shooters, to and from MCB Quantico, will be via POV. Non-rush hour driving time, barring accidents, etc., is between 45 minutes and one hour.

Ladies Club Shopping, Lunch and White House Tour – Both activities are limited to 45 persons. Information will be posted in the Ladies Hospitality Room.

At present, White House tours are limited to groups of “appropriately cleared” school children. It is expected, however, that by August 1st, the security situation will be such that members of organizations, such as the FRA, will be included in tour groups.

Sunset Parade - For Reserved Seating, a Head Count is necessary by June 30th. Should you desire to view the ceremony, contact Wayne Pilny at the phone number or e-mail address on page 1.

Transportation arrangements are an individual responsibility. Be advised that parking at the memorial is limited.

Wednesday, August 21st

- .Free Time Shopping & Sightseeing
- 0800-1100 Supply Hooch & Registration
- 1300-1600 Supply Hooch & Registration
Roosevelt Room
- 0800-2300 Hospitality Rooms
Men’s – Presidential Room
Ladies – The Reagan Room
- 1800-2000 Ladies Club Welcome Cocktail Party
Presidential Room

Thursday August 22nd

- Executive Committee Meeting – Time and Location to be announced
- 0815-1200 Tour of Arlington Cemetery - Host Col. John W. Ripley USMC Ret.
- 1245-2100 Raid & Recon Group Demonstrations
MCB Quantico, VA.

Note: Board transportation at 1245 for trip to Quantico VA. Proceed to the Raids & Recon

Group facility for Jump, Boat and Dives demonstrations.

Post demonstrations, meet with the troops in their hanger for drinks food & questions.

Depart Quantico about 1830 to return to Hotel, arrive about 2100.

Box lunch’s will be on board the busses. Make your Box Lunch menu choice in the Supply Hooch as early as possible. No choice, no lunch.

Friday August 23rd

- 0800-1100 Board of Directors Meeting – Location to be announced.
- 0800-2300 Supply and Hospitality Rooms Open
- 1600-1900 Cocktail Party - Marine Corps Historical Center, Washington Navy Yard
- 1600-1900 Cocktail Party – Marine Corps Historical Center, Washington Navy Yard
- 2030-2300 Evening Parade – Marine Barracks 8th & I Streets

Note: Bus transportation will depart the hotel for the Marine Corps Historical Center at 1530.

A Cash Bar for beer & wine will be available, as will heavy hors d’oeuvres.

Transportation will depart the Historical Center at 1930 for the Marine Barracks. We must be seated NLT 2030.

The Secretary of the Navy has been invited to attend – Appropriate attire is mandatory.

Saturday, August 24th

- 2nd Force Recon Demonstration/Display - Capt Andy Christian and Team
- 0900-???? Ladies Club General Membership Meeting – Ladies Hospitality Room
- 1100-1300 General Membership Meeting and Lunch – Location to be Announced
- 1200-1300 Ladies Luncheon – Madison Room
Silent Auction Winners Announced
- 1330-1600 Scholarship Auction – Poolside
- 1800-2400 Cocktail Hour – Fort Myer ?????
Speakers and Awards – Fort Myer ????
Banquet & Dancing – Fort Myer ????

Note: A 3 Man Inflatable Zodiac Boat has been donated to the Association and will be one of the items offered during the Scholarship Auction.

Sunday, August 25th

The Hotel will provide a room adjacent to the hotel restaurant for a Buffet Breakfast.

Cost: Menu Prices.

Say our goodbyes for another year.

Remember, Recon 2003 will be in Hawaii.

"Recon 2002 is the initial attempt at organizing the annual meeting/reunion of the FRA by committee. Accordingly, I would like to express my sincere appreciation and thanks to the individuals listed below for the assistance they provided in the effort to make Recon 2002 a success.

The work and unselfish efforts, by everyone, is greatly appreciated by myself and, I am certain, the FRA Membership.

Col, Gordon Keiser Ret. Col, John Cole Ret.

Col, John W. Ripley Ret. and Staff

Leonard Torres GySgt Michael Black

MSgt Joe Settelen Capt, Andy Christian

Jose Tablada FRA VP Hal Leach SitRep Editor

If there are any I've neglected to mention, please accept my apologies.

Semper Fi,

Wayne Pilny #-1522"

The FRA Board of Directors, Officers and Staff wishes to thank and express our appreciation to Wayne and his "team" – Well Done Marines!

Additionally, we hope you all enjoy yourselves at Recon 2002.

You are reminded, however, that, in addition to members of our Association, the hotel has other (civilian) guests. Accordingly, it is expected that your conduct will not only reflect credit upon yourself, but the FRA and the Marine Corps as well.

Semper Fidelis!

Combatant Diver Badge Authorized

R 141545Z MAR 02 [Extract]

FM CMC WASHINGTON DC

TO MARADMIN

UNCLAS N03000

MARADMIN 142/02

DATE SIGNED: 03/14/2002

MSGID/GENADMIN/CMC WASHINGTON DC

SUBJ/CHANGES TO DIVER QUALIFICATION REQUIREMENTS, POLICY

AND UNIFORM REGULATIONS FOR RELATED DIVER INSIGNIA

REF/B/MARADMIN 199/01

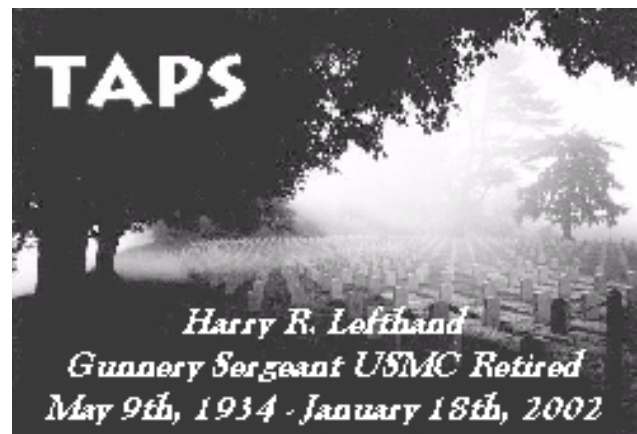
REF/C/MARADMIN 200/01

D. COMBATANT DIVER: THIS DIVING PROFICIENCY HAS A NEW APPROVED BREAST INSIGNIA PER REF (B). THIS TRAINING LEVEL REPRESENTS CLOSED CIRCUIT OXYGEN DIVING EXPERTISE ASSOCIATED

WITH RECONNAISSANCE RELATED COMBATANT DIVING MISSIONS. QUALIFICATION REQUIREMENTS FOR THIS DIVING PROFICIENCY AND AUTHORIZATION TO WEAR THE DESIGNATED INSIGNIA INCLUDE COMPLETION OF MARINE COMBATANT DIVER TRAINING COURSE AT NDSTC PANAMA CITY, FL, FROM 1992 TO PRESENT OR HQMC/UNIT APPROVED OXYGEN DIVING TRANSITION COURSES CONDUCTED PRIOR TO FEB 2002 AND SUBSEQUENT TO A THEN AUTHORIZED NAVY SCUBA COURSE.

PER REF (C), SPECIAL AMPHIBIOUS RECONNAISSANCE CORPSMAN AND SPECIAL AMPHIBIOUS RECONNAISSANCE INDEPENDENT DUTY CORPSMAN ARE AUTHORIZED TO WEAR THIS INSIGNIA WHEN ATTACHED TO MARINE CORPS UNITS.

5. MARINES WHO HAVE NOT TRANSITIONED TO OXYGEN DIVING REBREATHING SYSTEMS ARE NOT AUTHORIZED TO WEAR THE NEW COMBATANT DIVER BREAST INSIGNIA. THEY WILL WEAR THE BASIC SCUBA INSIGNIA REPRESENTATIVE OF THEIR LEVEL OF DIVING EXPERTISE FROM BASIC SCUBA SCHOOL.



Harry passed away, at age 67, in the New Mexico Veteran's Center in Truth or Consequences, NM.

He was proud to be a Marine as well as an Indian. He was a member of both the Cheyenne-Arapaho tribe and the Taos Nation.

Harry commenced his Recon career as a PFC in Test Unit One. He was a Plank Owner in 1st Force when it was established in 1957.

He served nearly four full tours in Vietnam, and was awarded the Silver Star, two Bronze Stars w/Combat "V"s, the Vietnamese Cross of Gallantry with Bronze Star and three Purple Hearts.

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Continued from page 5.

Harry's last duty assignment, prior to his retirement in 1973, was NCOIC of the Amphibious Recon School at Coronado, California.

He was interred, with full military and tribal honors, in the Indian Cemetery in the courtyard of an old Mission Church at the Pueblo in Taos, NM.

His daughters Rena Clark (North Pole, Alaska), Mary Lefthand (Oceanside, CA) Grace Lefthand, (Seattle, WA, and son Harry Lefthand Jr. (Taos, NM) survives him. His mother passed away a year ago.

All of us in Force Recon will miss Harry, one of our true founders and a fine Marine.

Colonel Bruce F. Meyers USMC Ret. #007

Unit Activity Reports



Special Operations Training Group

1st Marine Expeditionary Force, FMF

Camp Pendleton, California

By 1st Sgt Vasquez

LtCol Bob Coates is at the helm of SOTG since he departed as Commanding Officer of 1st Force Recon Company. He is working on a myriad of projects to include upgrading Range 130 to be a state of the art shooting/training facility and has been working on the Marine Corps contribution to SOCOM.

LtCol Frank Topley is departing in the next month for a new job with Coalition Special Warfare at Quantico.

Maj Vinnie Lumalcur is departing next month as well to attend Command and Staff College.

Maj Brian Fuller is continuing as the OIC of Raids section, through the next year.

Capt Ryder White departed our ranks and is now 4th Platoon Commander at 1st Force Recon Co.

Capt Phil Treglia recently returned from six monthw in Afghanistan where he served as a Platoon Commander of a Platoon from 1st Force Recon Co. He is joining us as the Special Missions Branch OIC, until a new Major joins us at which time he will become the assistant OIC.

Capt Matt Kress, one of LtCol Coates officers from Force Recon, has joined us for a six month stint as the Special Projects Officer.

1st Sgt Butch Vasquez attended the AT Instructor Qualification and Intel in Combating Terrorism

Courses. He was recently promoted and has executed orders to 1st Transportation Support Battalion, "A" Company (FSSG) on 10 May 2002, He is wearing the red patch on his cammies proudly.

GySgt Joey Morrison attended the Bill Rodgers shooting course and came back with many new ideas on our already great CQB package.

GySgt "Ranger" Dailey, former Platoon Sergeant, 2nd Platoon, 1sr Force Recon Co recently led the vehicle ambush operations in Afghanistan with the 15th MEU (SOC) that was credited with destroying the lead vehicle of 6 vehicle convoy. He has inherited the SNCOIC slot to run our R & S section.

SSgt Jr Slife, after 2 pumps at Force Recon Co, finally got a job with SOTG as a R&S Instructor. He has been the interim SNCOIC and has been relieved by Ranger Dailey. He has improved his PFT score by 10 points since arriving here and earned his 1st Class PFT standing.

SSgt Mark Schmidt attended High Risk personnel and Bill Rodgers shooting courses and is up for Gunny on this next board, as well as being found qualified for assignment to recruiting duty

SSgt Chad Baker is back in the Corps after 2 years as a civilian. He is gainfully employed as a Sniper/Urban Reconnaissance instructor and is happy to be back.

SSgt Sid Voss recently attended High Risk Personnel course and is slated for Ranger School this fall. He is also in the promotion eligibility zone for Gunnery Sergeant.

SSgt "Thick" Moeller is still our only east coast Recon rep and charming as ever. Has now moved to the "front office" as the Chief Instructor, where he is helping MSgt Vordahl with LOI's planning and coordination for SOTG.

SSgt Van Seeley attended High Risk Personnel, Breacher Instructor and Bill Rodgers Shooting Courses.

Sgt Glen "CD" Cederholm has returned from Afghanistan as an Assistant Team Leader and sniper with 2nd Platoon, 1st Force Recon Co. He has joined to teach and instruct R&S and prepare our snipers and Recon Marines with providing the best R&S support to our MEU's.

Special Agent Tim Haught has joined SOTG as our new FBI representative. He spent the last five years with the Honolulu office and is a former Recon Marine from 1st and 3rd Recon Battalion.

SOTG recently wrapped up the six-month training and evaluation period for the 11th MEU (SOC), which is set to sail next month.

Pat Rogers was out for two weeks to run the Instructor Proficiency Course, insuring that the gun fighting skills of the SOTG Instructors stay at a high level.



**2d Force Recon Co, 2d Recon Bn
2d Marine Division
Camp Lejeune, North Carolina
By Capt. Andrew Christian**

The Company has been very busy over the last six months.

Currently we are in the process of moving the entire Company into our new 8 million dollar facility located at Court House Bay. The new facility will be home to 2d Recon Bn and 2d Force Recon Co.

On 9 July 2d Force Recon Co. will be conducting a change of command and we will again stand detached from 2d Recon Bn and work directly for II MEF. The following list describes the training being conducted at 2d Force Recon Co.

1st Platoon - 1stLt Buffa & GySgt Elder have recently commenced the unit-training phase. They have been selected to participate with the 2nd MEB during exercise Dynamic Mix, which is scheduled to be conducted in Spain in late May. When they return, they are scheduled to deploy for cold weather operations in Bridgeport CA.

a. 2nd Platoon - 1stLt Livotti & SSgt Salbom have just started forming the platoon and are undergoing a demanding six-month school phase. They have Marines scheduled to deploy with the 2d MEB in support of Exercise Dynamic Mix.

b. 3rd Platoon - Capt Kahn, GySgt Halpin & MSgt Weatherbe have just returned from a demanding deployment with the 26th MEUSOC in Afghanistan. They conducted several raids in support of 26th MEUSOC objectives. They have come back with a very detailed after action report concerning Force Recon employment. They are presently enjoying a well-deserved leave period. We look forward to acting on their lessons learned so future platoons can continue the war on terrorism.

c. 4th Platoon - Capt Soluire, GySgt Giger & MSgt Freeland are currently deployed with the 22nd MEUSOC. Because of the sensitive nature of the mission the traffic flow back to the company has been slow. The 22nd MEUSOC just conducted a "Humanitarian Mission" at an undisclosed location

overseas. We anticipate an action packed deployment for 4th platoon.

d. 5th Platoon - Capt Watt, GySgt Hatcher & GySgt Miller are currently conducting TRUE training with the 24th MEU. They have been working at a feverish pace trying to earn the MEUSOC designation. They just completed a very demanding 6-month unit training evolution, and are currently shifting gears into the MSPF mission. The platoon was able to squeeze in a very demanding HAHO training package in Yuma, AZ.

e. 6th Platoon - Capt Christian, GySgt Lynch & MSgt Boyd are currently finishing Unit Training. During the training evolution, the platoon participated in exercise "Red Flag" at Nellis AFB Las Vegas, NV, Cold weather operations at Ft McCoy WI, HAHO training in Yuma, AZ and an amphibious training package at Camp Lejeune. They are scheduled to chop to the 26th MEU in June.



**3d Force Reconnaissance Co.
Mobile, Alabama
By SSgt W. D. Burrows**

This report covers the period January-May 2002.

During the January Drill Weekend, 3d Force Reconnaissance Company changed command; LtCol Roosa relieved Col Dougherty as Company Commander, and SgtMaj Hud relieved 1st Sgt Novinec as the Company Sergeant Major.

Capt Marshal and SSgt Dean took 1st Platoon to Alaska for a Cold Weather Training Package. They have been busy conducting the work up and classroom portions of training. Echo Company, 4th Recon BN, was invaluable to our training in their backyard.

Capt Russell and Sgt Smith took 2nd Platoon to the Joint Readiness Training Center, Ft. Polk, Louisiana and participated in a rotation with the base OpFor. They conducted the platoon work up at Camp Shelby with rehearsals and calling in CAS with HMLA 773 Det A from Belle Chase, LA.

Capt Anglin and SSgt Daniel are planning for participation in CAX at 29 Palms this summer for 3rd Platoon, and are working with the Detachment to get prepared for desert operations.

Future training packages for 3d Force include the MK 25 Diver Advanced Infiltration Course, and the MC-5 Static Line Transition Course.



4th Force Recon Co (-)

Kaneohe Bay, HI

By SSgt Jose Tablada

This Report covers the period
Jan-May 2002.

1st Platoon - The Marines of

the platoon are continuing to prepare for possible activation in support of the active duty Force Reconnaissance companies high Ops Tempo.

January - A challenging orienteering course in the mountains of the Kahuku training area, as well as training with the MBITR inter-team/emergency radio was conducted.

February - A full mission profile dive/point reconnaissance mission was conducted during this period. A simulated OTH transit into a closed circuit UBA insert, onto a heavily patrolled BLS was done by two teams from 1st Plt.

March - The platoon earned their tan belt certification in a condensed training package put on by 1st Platoon's own Sgt. Al "joker" Scott and Capt Andrew Johnson.

The company also conducted a two-week combat dive requal, dive supervisor course and amphib package. The course produced eight new Dive Supervisor's.

April - The Platoon conducted a fly-away full mission profile to Fallon NV. After in flight rigging, the teams conducted low level static line inserts into the training area to conduct their assigned missions. Once the missions were complete, 1st platoon along with teams from 4th and 5th platoons, Det. 4th Force Recon Co. moved to the Army live fire range at Fallon to conduct combat shooting drills.

Maj Joe Cabell took over as 1st platoon commander from Capt Andy "kung fu" Johnson. Capt Johnson will be missed.

May - SSgt Pat "Fantasy Boy" Sterling and members of 1st Plt. participated in exercise Cobra Gold in Thailand. While there, the Det. conducted parachute operations, and instructed Thai Reconnaissance Marines on amphibious techniques, combat shooting, demolitions, weapons, and patrolling. The Thai Reconnaissance Marines provided classes to our Det. on jungle evasion and survival. The JEST training was a highlight for many of the new members of 1st platoon.

Farewell to HM2 Mike Cirivello who is returning to 1st CIVDIV and moving to Turkey with his beautiful wife Deniz. Deniz will be participating in

the 2004 Olympics as a member of the Turkish sailing team.

Promotions

Cpl F. Prinea

School Graduates

High Risk Personnel

SSgt J. Tablada III SSgt P.A. Sterling

Combatant Diver

Cpl F. Prinea Cpl S. Parker

Dive Supervisor

Sgt A. Chopito III Sgt R. Torres

SERE

Cpl K. Fo

Jump School

Cpl W.P. Heiman

Basic Reconnaissance Course (EWTGPAC)

LCpl Callaghan



4th Force Recon Co. Det.

Reno, NV

By Sgt Martin W. Rademacher

This report covers the period November 2001
- March 2002.

November - The Detachment conducted a low level static line jump into DZ Condor which was followed by its annual Marine Corps Ball which was held at the Atlantis Hotel and Casino. Sea stories proceeded and followed the traditional ceremony.

December - The Det. Supported the annual Toy's for Tot's drive. Over 10,000 toys were distributed to families and schools.

January - No drill was held during the month, however, key personnel met to begin planning for the march dive package in Hawaii.

February - 4th and 5th Platoons received their warning/patrol order for a full mission profile in March. They also received classes in urban reconnaissance to include reporting and communications.

The RIPP Platoon conducted a BRC screening test and classes on the skills and fining in the Sparks Marina - 47 degree water temperature - "they remain motivated!"

Promotions

Cpl Call LCpl Williams LCpl Nemeth

School Graduates

Static Line Jump Master

Sgt Lane

Combatant Diver

Sgt. Arnette Sgt. Pineda

Jump School

Sgt. Nathan

Winter Mountain Survival

Sgt. Garlock

SERE

Doc Zito



**Basic Reconnaissance Course,
(BRC)
Expeditionary Warfare Training
Group, Pacific, Coronado, CA
By Capt. A. B. Rowe**

Staff

OIC: Capt. A. B. Rowe USMC
Asst. OIC: Capt. R.B. Sotire USMC
NCOIC: MSgt. D.A. Miller USMC
Recon Corpsmen: HM1 W.R. Brown USN
HM2 H.M. Werner USN

Instructors:

GySgt K.M. Hasbrouck USMC
GySgt B.R. Yarolem USMC
GySgt L.P. Benoit USMC
SSgt R.W. Alexander USMC
SSgt S.P. Lunn USMC
SSgt J.T. Swarr USMC
SSgt M.S. Archer USMC
SSgt J.A. Stare USMC
Sgt C.A. Poulton USMC
Sgt B.M. Jaffe USMC
Sgt W.J. Winningham USMC
IT2 N. Rocha USN (SEAL)

The Basic Reconnaissance Course exists to teach and train Marines and Recon Corpsmen the core skills, knowledge, tactics, and techniques of a Basic Reconnaissance Man, and to qualify students for the USMC MOS 0321 and Navy NEC 8427.

BRC Class 3-02 is on deck and is currently underway in the Patrolling Phase of the course. The class began on 1 April and will graduate on 7 June. Current events indicate the graduates will very likely be using their newly acquired skills in support of future combat operations.

Current Course Developments: Preparing for our new instructional facility under construction at NAB Coronado, to be completed in May 2003.

Updating the Communications curriculum to include PRC-138 Digital HF Radios, Long Range

Comm shots during the Patrolling phase, and Comm practical application in the field.

Training new Instructors and upgrading current instructor qualifications.

We are fortunate to have an Instructor Staff with a cumulative total of almost 100 years of Amphibious Reconnaissance experience. Their hard work and dedication are the key elements in producing quality Reconnaissance Marines to the fleet.

Recent Staff Accomplishments – Graduations**Staff NCO Academy**

SSgt Lunn SSgt Arcjer

Helicopter Rope Suspension Master

Sgt Winningham

Military Freefall

Sgt Jaffe SSgt Stare

Emergency Medical Technician

GySgt Yarolem Sgt Poulton IT2 Rocha

Static Line Jumpmaster

SSgt Poulton

American Legion Heroism Award**Recognition - Cash Bonus For Cost-saving Initiatives**

SSgt Alexander

Course Honor Graduates

Class 1-02 - 7 December 2002

Sgt Brian M. Blonder USMC 1ST Force Recon

Class 2-02 - 15 March 2002

Sgt Vincent A. Marzi USMC 1ST Recon BN.

We would like to thank all former Reconnaissance Marines who have given their time and energy to speak to our classes, both at graduation and during our informal guest speaker events. Your perspective and valuable lessons are appreciated.

To our graduates and Reconnaissance Brothers in the FMF, good luck and good hunting.

Semper Fidelis.



**Force Recon Association
U.S. Marine Corps**

Report Of The Scholarship Committee**To The Board Of Directors****2001**

The scholarship committee received twelve (12) completed applications for cash grants to be awarded during the coming academic year. Two are FRA members, three (3) are sons of members, three (3) are daughters of members, one (1) is the granddaughter of a member, two (2) are grandsons of a members and one (1) is the spouse of a member. Three (3) previous scholarship award recipients were among the applicants. The committee prioritized the applications in the following categories: 1) Members; 2) Children of Members (including adopted and stepchildren); 3) Spouses of members; 4) Grandchildren of members.

As in previous years all applicants were well qualified academically, and were members or sponsored by members who are in good standing in the association. The applicants are striving to pursue careers in the fields of business, military, education, engineering, sales, music, fitness & nutrition, international affairs and marine science. They are attending or will attend well-respected academic institutions in nine (9) states: New York, North Carolina, Hawaii, Florida, Montana, Texas, Virginia, Ohio and Wisconsin.

The committee using objective criteria, as has been previously established, after careful review of each application, considering Association priorities and personal statements of the applicants, current grade point averages, letters of recommendation, and school/community activities makes the following recommendations:

Ernie DeFazio Scholarship Award - \$1,200

Leonard J. DeFrancisci
Florida Institute of Technology – Engineering
(Member, #1511)

Sasser Scholarship Award - \$1,000

Suzanna E. Cole
Villanova University - Business
(Daughter of John Cole, #0607)

Siegel/Houghton Scholarship Award - \$1,000

Collin F. Meyers
George Washington University - International Affairs
(Grandson of Bruce Meyers, #0007)

Gary Marti Community Service Award - \$800

Jacob Haught
University of Notre Dame - Pre-Med
(Son of Timothy Haught, #2527)

SgtMaj Maurice J. Jacques Scholarship Award - \$500

Hillary R. Robnick
Miami University - Music
(Daughter of Sands A. Robnick, #1997)

Arrington Scholarship Award - \$500

Joshua K. Ford
University of North Texas - Business
(Member, #2505)

Total Awards \$5,000

The Women's Club has requested the Scholarship Committee select an applicant to receive a special scholarship named for one of their own who passed away this year, Donna Johnson. Donna was the wife of member Wes Johnson. This awarded from the donations of their members.

Donna Johnson Scholarship Award - \$1,000

Kristi C. Brown
Fayetteville State University - Education
(Daughter of Butch Craig, #0200)

The committee's task of selecting recipients for awards is a very difficult one because of the high quality of all applicants. Each deserves in his or her own right and the committee is proud to recommend these young men and women as representatives of the Force Recon Association.

Respectfully submitted, Wayne M. Lingenfelter, Ed.D. #0042
Chairman

Recon Primary MOS (Category A)

R 221700Z JAN 02

FM CMC WASHINGTON DC//PPO//

TO MARADMIN

UNCLAS //N03000//

MARADMIN 043/02

MSGID/GENADMIN/CMC WASHINGTON DC//PPO/POE//

SUBJ/DESIGNATION OF 0321 RECONNAISSANCE MARINE AS A PRIMARY MOS PVT TO MGYSGT//

REF/A/DECISION PAPER CMC//

REF A IS CMC DECISION TO ESTABLISH A PRIMARY MOS 0321 FROM PVT TO MGYSGT//

RMKS/1. THE PURPOSE OF THIS MARADMIN IS TO PROVIDE INFORMATION REGARDING THE IMPLEMENTATION OF 0321 (RECONNAISSANCE MAN) AS A PRIMARY MOS FOR DESIGNATED INDIVIDUALS FROM THE RANK OF PVT TO MGYSGT.

2. FROM 30 MAR 02 TO 30 JUN 02 M&RA AND THE RECONNAISSANCE OCCUPATIONAL FIELD SPONSOR (POE-30) WILL REVIEW THE RECORDS OF THOSE MARINES WHO HAVE EXPRESSED A DESIRE TO REDESIGNATE TO THE PRIMARY MOS OF 0321. UNIT COMMANDERS/OFFICERS IN CHARGE (OIC'S) ARE DIRECTED TO SEND A NAVAL MESSAGE TO CMC WASHINGTON DC//PPO/POE OF ALL MARINES IN THEIR COMMAND DESIRING TO REDESIGNATE AS 0321'S NLT 31 MAR 02. MARINES WILL BE SELECTED FOR REDESIGNATION TO PMOS 0321 BASED ON THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THEIR COMMANDING OFFICERS AND THEIR ABILITY TO MEET THE FOLLOWING MOS PREREQUISITES:

PREREQUISITES ARE IDENTIFIED BELOW:

- (1) GT SCORE 105.
 - (2) 1ST CLASS SWIMMER.
 - (3) 1ST CLASS PFT.
 - (4) MUST BE A US CITIZEN.
 - (5) BE ELIGIBLE FOR A SECRET CLEARANCE.
 - (6) RECONNAISSANCE COURSE GRADUATE (WAIVERABLE FOR MARINES WHO HAVE SERVED IN RECONNAISSANCE BILLETS).
 - (7) MINIMUM 24 MONTHS OBLIGATED SERVICE REMAINING OR AGREE TO EXTEND OR REENLIST TO MEET REQUIREMENT.
 - (8) MUST HAVE 20/200 NEAR VISUAL ACUITY OR VISUAL ACUITY NOT TO EXCEED 20/400 WITH A COMPLETED PRK EYE SURGERY CANDIDATE CONSULTATION. NORMAL COLOR VISION IS RECOMMENDED, BUT NOT REQUIRED PROVIDED THE MARINE CAN COMPLETE A VIVID RED AND VIVID GREEN RECOGNITION TEST.
3. FINAL APPROVAL WILL BE MADE BY HQMC, MMEA-82, AND THE OCCUPATIONAL FIELD SPONSOR (POE-30) BASED ON RECOMMENDATIONS OF COMMANDING OFFICERS, INDIVIDUAL QUALIFICATIONS, YEARS OF SERVICE AND GRADE REQUIREMENTS ESTABLISHED BY MPP-20. APPROPRIATE MARINE CORPS TOTAL FORCE SYSTEMS (MCTFS) ENTRIES WILL BE MADE BY MMEA-5 NLT 20 SEPT 02. PERSONNEL ACCEPTED FOR REDESIGNATION WILL RECEIVE PCS/PCA ORDERS BASED UPON THE NEEDS OF THE MARINE CORPS EFFECTIVE 1 OCT 02.
4. MOS 0321 WILL BE ASSIGNED AS A PRIMARY MOS.
5. TECOM WILL REVISE THE MOS MANUAL TO IDENTIFY THE MOS REQUIREMENTS FOR 0321. THE OCCUPATIONAL FIELD SPONSOR (POE-30) WILL SUPPLY REQUIREMENTS IN ACCORDANCE WITH ESSENTIAL SKILLS AND EDUCATION REQUIREMENTS IDENTIFIED THROUGH THE ADVOCACY PROCESS, RECOMMENDATIONS FROM THE COMMANDING OFFICERS OF RECONNAISSANCE UNITS, AND ESTABLISHED MARINE CORPS PME REQUIREMENTS.
6. THE 0321 PRIMARY MOS WILL BE AWARDED TO DESIGNED 03XX MARINES CPL AND BELOW AFTER COMPLETION OF THE BASIC RECONNAISSANCE COURSE (BRC) AT EWTG LANT/PAC. THE ADDITIONAL MOS, 0321 RECONNAISSANCE MAN, WILL BE AWARDED TO MARINES OF OTHER MOS'S COMPLETING THAT SAME COURSE IN ANTICIPATION OF THEIR ASSIGNMENT TO A T/O LINE NUMBER REQUIRING THAT SKILL WITHIN THE MARINE CORPS. 03XX SGTS AND ABOVE WILL BE AWARDED AMOS 0321 UPON COMPLETION OF BRC. REQUESTS FOR LATERAL MOVE OR PAGE 04 RUEACMC0495 UNCLAS REDESIGNATION TO MOS 0321 WILL BE SENT TO MMEA AND OCCFLD SPONSOR POE-30 FOR APPROVAL.
7. POINT OF CONTACT IS GYSGT MITCHELL (POE) E-MAIL MITCHELLTG@HQMC.USMC.MIL DSN: 222-6922/6929 AND (MMEA) MAJ LEONARD EMAIL LEDARDSD@MANPOWER.USMC.MIL DSN:278-9334.

BT

Team Somersail One

On 11 June 1967, a seven man Recon Team, "Somersail One", from 3rd Force Recon Co. left Dong Ha aboard a CH-46 helicopter for an insertion LZ at YD 041681.

The LZ was on the southern boundary of the DMZ. The area is four kilometers north of Hill 208, which was identified, during Operation Hastings in July 1966, as the Command Post for the 324B NVA Division, and 900 meters west of Hill 174, another, well known NVA position.

A flight of two CH 46A and two UH1E gun ships left Dong Ha at 1115.

As the insertion helicopter was approaching the LZ it snapped up vertically and then rolled inverted tumbling end over end and crashed. An "eye witness account" indicated it was spiraling out of control and the rear blades were separating. The helicopter crashed then burst into flames.

Within hours of the crash, rescue/recovery efforts were undertaken. However, weather, terrain but primarily heavy concentrations of NVA forces prevented success.

Members of the Recon Team aboard the CH 46 have been identified as Sgt. Jim E. Moshier, LCpl. James E. Kooi, LCpl. Michael W. Havranek, LCpl. John J. Foley, LCpl. Dennis R. Christie, Pfc. Charles D. Chomel, Pfc. James E. Widener

The CH 46 and its crew were assigned to HMM 265. The crew members are identified as Maj. John S. Oldham, Capt. Curtis R. Bolscheid, LCpl. Jose J. Gonzales, and PFC Thomas M. Hanratty.

To date, the bodies of the men lost have not been recovered and they are listed as KIA/BNR.

Queries earlier this year indicate the Joint Task Force Full Accounting (JTF FA) Office at CINCPAC, has scheduled an investigation of the crash site during the period 4 June-2 July 2002.

While JTF FA envisions few if any problems, the investigation, however, is subject to host country (Vietnam) approval, agreement, and security concerns, weather, etc.

Eddie DeLezen, a member of 3rd Force Recon Co., at the time of the incident, and Don Havranek, the brother of LCpl Michael W. Havranek, a member of the Recon team, have visited the area of the crash site. Their experiences, observations, etc. can be found on the FRA Web Site.

Ladies Club

Dear Ladies:

Three months to the next convention and we're really excited about our reunion in D.C. In the previous Sitrep, Nancy Pilny reported on proposed activities for our group during the convention. We all owe Nancy a big thanks for the tremendous amount of time and effort Nancy has put in to ensure the greatest reunion yet for all of us.

Your Executive Committee will be meeting in June to iron out last minute details. Again, we would like any of you to drop a note or e-mail Pat, Georgett, Nancy or Irene on what you can donate for the silent auction and for the daily raffles.

Our Silent Auction last year was a tremendous success and we are hoping for an even greater response this year. If you would like to mail your package to the hotel beforehand, please send it to Judy Wayland, Director of Sales, Quality Hotel & Suites, Courthouse Plaza, 1200 No. Courthouse Road, Arlington, VA 22201. It would be best if you sent your package after August 1st so that Judy Wayland can keep track of the packages for our group. However, whether you mail your donation or bring it with you, please let one of your Executive Committee know what you are bringing or sending so that we can keep a master list.

As always, we welcome and very much need all volunteers to man the Ladies' Hospitality Suite during the convention.

We are especially looking forward to the proposed Ladies' White House tour, lunch and shopping and the welcome cocktail party given by the Ladies Club. If any of you have any other ideas for recreational time, please let us know.

We will be presenting our scholarship this year at the Banquet. We thank each of you for making this scholarship possible.

Also, keep in mind that new Executive Committee officers will be nominated and selected at this convention. In our next letter to you, we will be reporting on our meeting in June, and will send the minutes, roster and more details on the nominating process and election of officers.

Again, if you have any pictures from previous conventions, please send them to our historian, Patty Kitzmann, so she can include them in our albums.

I'm sure you will all agree that it was great looking through the albums last year.

Lastly, any ladies who would like to join the Ladies Club should send your name, address, telephone number and e-mail address to Irene Ramey, 330 Washington Blvd., Suite 400, Marina del Rey, CA 90292 or e-mail me at grandmai@earthlink.net.

Thank you again for your continuing support and help. Irene Ramey Secretary

“Pat” Patrick, Commandants Guest at the 226th U.S. Marine Corps Birthday Celebration



Official USMC Photo by Sgt M.A. Paull
General Jones Vice President Richard B. Cheney “Pat” Patrick.

The Commandant of the Marine Corps, General James L. Jones, invited “Pat” to be his guest at the 226th birthday celebration of the Marine Corps.

The following is “Pat’s” account of the occasion as told to Nelson Donley.

“My friend Joan and I had an extraordinary weekend in our nation’s capitol last November when we were invited to attend the Marine Corps Ball and all the accompanying festivities. I would like to share the events of that weekend with all of you.

The excitement started on Friday when we were at the Louisville airport waiting for our plane. Kentucky’s Lieutenant Governor Henry and his wife Heather French Henry (a former Miss America) were also there. Mrs. Henry is very involved with Veteran’s (sic) and she noticed the ribbons on my hat. They came over to talk to us and during the course of the conversation we realized that they, to, were going to the Marine Corps Ball.

We arrived at our hotel in Washington and were told that it was the same hotel where the attempted assination of President Reagan happened. We had dinner with some friends that evening and the real excitement started the next morning.

The Marine Corps Commandant, General Jones, sent an official car to take us to the ceremonies at the United States Marine Memorial, better known as the Iwo Jima Memorial, where we had VIP seats. The Secretary of the Navy, the Honorable Gordon R. England, was the speaker and we had an opportunity to meet him and also the sculptor of the monument, Felix W. deWeldon.

When that ceremony was over, we went to Arlington Cemetery with General Jones and a few other people to place wreaths on several graves. I had the honor of placing the wreath on Major Jim Jones grave.

That evening we attended a private reception for Vice President Cheney before the ball and had the opportunity to meet the Vice President.

There were about 3000 people at the ball. We were seated at Charlotte Jones VIP table. The Commandant and the Vice President were seated at the table in front of us.

Being the oldest Marine present, the Commandant called me up to the stage for the honor of cutting the first piece of cake and, of course, the youngest Marine cut the second piece.

I was so honored to receive a standing ovation when my bio was read.

Joan and I met so many nice people that evening who came over to speak to us, among them former California Governor Peat Wilson, who sent me a book when I got home. Lt. Gov. Henry and his wife Heather also came over and told me they were glad we were there to represent Kentucky.

General Jones sent an official car for us again on Sunday morning to take us to the very moving ceremonies at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier. We had box seats there and Senator Dole was seated in the box next to us. Vice President Cheney laid the wreath there and also gave a very eloquent speech.

After the ceremonies we were invited for lunch at the Army and Navy Club with the Commandant and his family. When that wonderful lunch was over the official car took us back to the hotel where we had time to recover from all the excitement before we flew home on Monday.

Needless to say, that weekend was the experience of a lifetime, magnified by the events of September 11th, and I was proud to participate in those events on behalf of you all. Submitted by, Pat Patrick, #0399



Anybody recognize these Recon Marines? Where 'n when the photo was taken?
Answer in the next SitRep

Relocating?

Don't forget to send a Post Card with your
New Address to:

Name, Membership Number, Old and

Force Recon Association, Inc.
#1775 – 638 Camino de los Mares
Suite C240
San Clemente, CA 92673-2848
Or

E-mail the Comm Officer: commchief@forcerecon.com

Sitrep

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