

SITREP

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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 available at no charge. Send an email request to CommChief@ForceRecon.com

Al Sniadecki



Message from your President

As this year comes to a close, the Force Recon Association marks the 35th anniversary of its inception in September 1989. I have no doubt that volumes could be written about the heroes within our ranks; and I am immeasurably honored and humbled to know many of them. I extend a special acknowledgement in memoriam to Bruce Myers, Tom Gibson, Ernie DeFazio, and the exceptional group of Recon Marines and Sailors who had the

foresight to organize and create the FRA. Furthermore, to those who have served over these past 35 years to keep this unit alive and serving our mission, I extend a hearty Semper Fidelis and thank you!

This 'year-end' edition of the "SitRep" is a little different from our standard format in that we asked our FRA Board members to contribute an article about their role with the organization. Thanks to our Executive Director, Dave Jarvis, for coming up with this format, and for his many contributions throughout 2024. We are able to continue our mission only through the efforts of Dave and our contributing members. If you feel the calling to serve the FRA, send me a message and let me know how you might be interested in contributing. My email address is al@alsniadecki.com. I look forward to hearing from you.

From my family to each of you and yours, I wish you a Merry and Blessed Christmas holiday and a happy, healthy New Year to come. Again, continued thanks to our many members and supporters, and a special "welcome home" to all our Reconnaissance Marines, MARSOC Marines and Corpsmen returning from deployments overseas. To our Brothers and Sisters still engaged in the fight, we send our prayers and best wishes for your safe return to your families and loved ones.

DON'T FORGET THAT 'MATCHING GIFT' PROGRAM THROUGH YOUR EMPLOYER!!!

Many of our members have departed our beloved Corps and re-entered the civilian community. Additionally, many of you work for organizations that offer a "matching gifts" program through your HR or Benefits departments. The FRA has benefitted from these programs in several instances, and we encourage you to consider this relatively easy way to make a financial contribution. Your employer will match your gift, and in many instances, may double or triple their contribution. If you haven't considered this option previously, it's a great way to contribute! Thank you.

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 info@forcerecon.com or to any of the following: Commchief@forcerecon.com, al@alsniadecki.com or to 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.

Please remember that without your support and participation, there would not be a Force Recon Association.

Semper Fidelis!

Al Sniadecki, President



Message from your Vice President and Executive Director

Good day Marines, Sailors, Family and Friends, of the Force Recon Association! As we settle into the holidays to spend time with our family and friends, I want to reiterate Al Sniadecki's comments for those still serving. Let us not forget those who are currently deployed abroad that continue to provide the security of our home front. We look forward to your safe return home. To all the Marines and Sailors preparing and training we thank you for your dedication....continue to train like you fight! Finally, those of you who have paved the way for our reconnaissance community, thank you for your leadership and guidance over the years. To my fellow board members, thank you for taking the

time to contribute to our annual SitRep. I can say with complete confidence that our organization is in good hands!

As you all know we did not have an annual reunion this past year; therefore, I'd like to take this opportunity to recap on a few key events that took place during 2024:

Our year started off by attending the SHOT Show in Las Vegas. For the past eight years running, Al Sniadecki and I, along with several other members have consistently attended this event. Attending the show has been instrumental in maintaining relationships with our key sponsors that continue to support our organization through donations in the form of cash, rifles, pistols, lights, knives and a variety of other gear and equipment. Additionally, we created several new relationships with other organizations for future support. Below is a list of our top sponsors from 2024:

- Streamlight, Cash donation and product: \$6,000+
- Bergara Rifles \$5,000+
- Mike Root (FRA Member) Mountain Lion Hunt \$3,000+
- FN America \$2,000+
- Staccato \$2,000+
- Dan Wesson (CZ America) \$2,000+
- Aimpoint \$1,500+
- Trijicon Optics: \$1,500+
- Leupold Optics and Gear: \$1,500+
- Glock \$1,000+
- Magpul products: \$500

If any of you are interested in attending a future SHOT Show in support of the FRA, please reach out to me for the details.

Our fundraising this last year was in the form of two online raffles that raised over \$25,000! My future goal is to conduct at least one annual online raffle and our charitable auction during the reunion. I want to thank everyone who participated and purchased tickets. If anyone has items that they would like to donate to our organization, I'd be happy to add them to our future fundraising efforts.

In August, six other board members and I linked up in Dallas, Texas to conduct a two-day annual meeting. Our mission was to revisit the organizations bylaws, review our specific duties and responsibilities and lay out the plan for 2025. The time was well spent, and we look forward to sharing the outcome of our time together at the 2025 reunion membership meeting.

As many of you may already know, our next reunion will be held in San Diego, California from 24-27 April, in conjunction with the 16th Annual Recon Challenge held at Camp Pendleton. You can find all the details and register by visiting our website at www.forcerecon.com

On a somber note, unfortunately, over the last year we have lost several of our fellow Recon Veterans and one active-duty Marine during training. Our thoughts and prayers are with the families and friends. We want everyone to know that the FRA is here to support our community and their families in time of need regardless if you are an active member of the association or not.

In closing, I want to wish each of you and your families a memorable Christmas and Happy New Year! Please feel free to reach out to me at any time as it continues to be an honor and a privilege to serve you and the Force Recon Association.

Semper Fidelis,

Dave Jarvis
MSgt, USMC, (Ret)
Jarvisda77@gmail.com
C: 760-716-3713



Treasurer, Brad Dierlam

ANNOUNCING THE NEW “LEGACY GIFT PROGRAM”

Recently, several of our members have inquired about a way to leave a financial gift to the FRA as part of an estate or, perhaps in a will. After several months of reviews and meetings and consultations with our principal financial advisor, John Greenway, we are excited and pleased to announce that we now have a legacy gift program in place for our members to donate to the Force Recon Foundation (FRF), our sister charity organization to the FRA. Since the FRF is a designated 501c3 charity by the IRS, donations made to this entity are exempt from federal taxes.

For those recently new members of the FRA, we formed the Force Reconnaissance Foundation (FRF) in 2014 to provide our FRA community with a means of making tax deductible donations. At the Force Reconnaissance Foundation, our commitment to honoring and supporting the brave men and women of the Marine Corps Reconnaissance community supports everything we do. Our **LEGACY GIFT PROGRAM** is a vital part of this mission, offering a meaningful way for you to contribute to the well-being of our Recon Veterans, active-duty personnel, and their families.

Through this program, we aim to provide essential support, enhance the quality of life and address the unique needs of those who have dedicated their lives to serving our country with exceptional courage and skill. Your generous contributions help fund a range of initiatives, including financial assistance and educational scholarships and support to our active-duty Community of Reconnaissance Marines and Sailors.

Joining our Legacy Gifting Program not only strengthens our collective effort to give back, but also fosters a sense of camaraderie and support within our Recon family. Together, we can make a lasting impact and show our unwavering appreciation for their sacrifice and dedication. Thank you for considering a legacy Force Reconnaissance Foundation gift. Your support plays a crucial role in upholding the history of excellence and honor that defines our Force Recon community.

The Legacy Gift Account is specifically designed to receive and manage contributions from bequests in wills, charitable remainder trusts, endowed gifts, and other planned giving instruments. By keeping these funds separate, we ensure a transparent and focused approach to managing legacy gifts, allowing for clear tracking and allocation in accordance with the specific intentions of each donor.

When a legacy gift is directed to the Legacy Gift Account, it is invested in a manner that preserves the principal while generating returns to support our programs and services. This account is carefully overseen by a dedicated committee within the FRF, which is responsible for ensuring that the funds are used in accordance with the donor’s specified intentions and the association’s mission.

Transparency and Accountability: By segregating legacy gifts from general funds, we maintain a high level of transparency and accountability. Donors can be assured that their contributions are managed with the utmost care and used specifically to further the goals outlined in their gift agreements.

Focused Impact: Legacy gifts often support long-term projects and initiatives that require sustained funding. The Legacy Gift Account allows us to plan and allocate resources effectively, ensuring that your gift contributes to impactful and enduring outcomes for the Force Recon community.

Recognition and Honor: Contributions to the FRF are recognized and honored in a manner that reflects the significance of each gift. This account allows us to celebrate the generosity of our supporters and acknowledge their commitment to the Force Recon Association’s mission.

Sustainable Support: The accounts investment strategy is designed to grow the principal while generating income for current use. This sustainable approach ensures that legacy gifts continue to benefit the association for years.

Our Marine Recon Community is deeply grateful for the vision and generosity of those who choose to leave a legacy gift. The Legacy Gift Account is a testament to our commitment to honoring your contribution and ensuring that it has a lasting impact.

For questions about the Legacy Gift giving program, please contact me by phone, 580-224-7612. We can then begin planning how you can contribute to the legacy program. Additionally, our principal; financial advisor, John Greenway, and I will be attending our 2025 Reunion and will be there to answer questions and share information on this new program.

To donate or
request more
information

For those desiring to make tax-deductible donations/contributions, the Force Reconnaissance Foundation (FRF), our Sister Charity is an IRS recognized 501c3 charity that directly supports our reconnaissance community and the FRA charities.

Please provide the following information

- 1.Full Name: _____
- 2.Address: _____
- 3.Preferred phone contact: _____
- 4.Email Address: _____
- 5.Date of anticipated gift: _____
- 6.Description of gift (ex cash, securities, beneficiary, annuity, etc.) _____

Please send the following information or requests for more information to:

info@forcerecon.com or call
Brad Dierlam, 580-224-7612

2024 SUPPORT ASSISTANCE AND FUNDRAISING

This past year we assisted and supported several families in their time need to include the family of Sgt. Colin Arslanbas, who unfortunately was killed conducting MFF training. Our thoughts and prayers are with everyone impacted by the loss of our Recon brother.

Additionally, we supported the Recon Challenge and PME's conducted at Recon Training Company, Team Leader of the Year awards and sponsor gifts of appreciation.

Our Spring 2024 raffle raised \$12,450 and our Fall 2024 raffle raised \$13,200!

We received another \$5,000 donation from Streamlight, a corporate partner!

Direct Action Apparel held an on-line fundraiser for FRA gear in November of 2024 and they donated their profits of \$1,600 to our association.

Please be sure to visit our website to view and support our partners.

CURRENT FINANCIAL STATUS

As of the printing of this SitRep, we have financial assets of \$227,401.68 held in the FRA. Our main source of annual operating income continues to be annual dues, which is the biggest inflow of cash to the organization. Additionally, our charities continue to be bolstered by our investment funds. Please be sure to send in your membership dues each year. With the technology on our website, it is quite easy to submit your annual dues online.

To summarize, we are in a good financial position as we move into the Fiscal Year of 2024/2025. Our investment accounts have stayed above the S&P averages, so our losses on the market have been minimal.

Always Beside You,
Brad Dierlam
Sgt, USMC, Veteran



Secretary, Paul Barrett

Gentlemen:

It is more than an honor to serve as your FRA Board Secretary. My primary duties as Secretary are to be responsible for the proper recording and preservation of Board actions including the taking of minutes at all Board meetings, sending out all meeting announcements, distributing copies of all Board documents as requested and assuring that all corporate records are properly maintained. My duties and activities are coordinated with the Board President, Executive Director and Board members.

Among the most frequently encountered questions from non-members are those related to membership qualification. The short answer is as follows: Any person who served with any Force Recon Company, Regular or Reserve, Marine Division Recon Battalions, Regular or Reserve, Amphibious Recon units between 1943 and 1958, and MARSOC, Test Unit One, and Special Mission Units is eligible for membership. A membership application form is available on our website at www.forcerecon.com. FRA membership Dues are \$40 per year or \$100 for 3 years.

Our membership continues to grow with new memberships and just over 3700 members on our rolls as this year ends and another begins. Membership growth and philanthropic fund raising remain essential priorities to the future of the FRA. Our real strength as a philanthropic organization serving the recon community comes from within the ranks of our membership and those willing to serve in leadership roles.

Members can review previous FRA SitReps, reunion photos, history, Honor Wall and other information available on our website at www.forcerecon.com. Should there be any inquiry regarding participation in a proactive role within the FRA leadership please contact Al, Dave, Brad or Paul.

“Character is all those elements that require a person to focus on others rather than himself; to postpone one’s own personal desires — what I want — until the needs of others have been looked after and satisfied.”

Author: Col. John W. Ripley FRA# 0612 (In Memoriam)

“Link Forever Those Who Served Together”

Paul



Communications Chief, Steve Luebbert

Greetings to all. My duties have been to maintain the member database and keep track of dues payments. I want to thank all members who have sent me updates and encourage everyone to review the bottom of the FRA Communications, where the information the FRA has on record for you is displayed. This information is meant for you only, so be careful when replying.

I would like to thank you for your patience with me for those who were impacted by subscriptions not performing as expected. All issues have been resolved. If you have any suspicion the dues pay history listed at the bottom of your FRA communication is not accurate, please contact me. Thank you.

May your holidays be merry and bright!

Semper Fi,

Stephen Luebbert
Communications Chief
Force Recon Association
commchief@forcerecon.com



Board Director, Sam Shin

Marines, Friends, and Supporters,

The past six months have highlighted the dynamic and complex nature of the Indo-Pacific region. From escalating tensions in contested waters to the growing presence of peer and near-peer competitors, this theater demands readiness, adaptability, and unwavering commitment from all who serve.

As 1st Marine Regiment prepares for deployment with the Marine Rotational Force - Darwin (MRF-D), we are at the forefront of efforts to strengthen alliances, deter aggression, and uphold stability. This mission is a testament to the Marine Corps' expeditionary ethos, showcasing our ability to project power and integrate seamlessly with partner forces. Our focus goes beyond operational readiness; it's about building lasting partnerships, especially with allies like Australia. Whether conducting joint exercises, executing amphibious operations, or enhancing interoperability, our efforts in the Indo-Pacific emphasize unity in countering emerging threats. Now, more than ever, INDOPACOM demands leadership grounded in the values of "Courage, Honor, and Commitment." To the Marines stepping into this mission, your excellence will set the standard.

The Force Recon Association (FRA) plays a vital role in supporting these efforts, connecting past, present, and future generations of Marines. More than a fraternal organization, the FRA preserves the history and legacy of Force Recon while providing essential support to Marines and their families.

Through reunions, charitable initiatives, and events like the Recon Challenge, the FRA ensures the sacrifices and accomplishments of Force Recon Marines are honored. As the Marine Corps adapts to evolving demands, the FRA remains committed to supporting Marines globally—whether in INDOPACOM, Europe, the Middle East, or beyond.

As part of our modernization, the FRA is expanding its digital presence across multiple platforms to better connect with the next generation of Marines. This growth helps us reach new members, share vital information, and build a more engaged community. Through our website, social media, and virtual events, the FRA continues to meet the needs of both current and future members.

The FRA's support goes beyond tradition. We continue to enhance communication, foster mentorship, and expand our philanthropic reach to ensure every Marine, active-duty or retired, feels connected. Our motto, "Link Forever Those Who Served Together," embodies this unwavering commitment.

CWO4 Samuel O. Shin



Board Director, Cory Paskvan

Hello Members, Families, and Friends of the Force Recon Association! I am honored to serve on the board of the Force Recon Association! The amount of support that this organization provides for the community and its members is great to be part of. As a member of the Board of Directors we work with the President, Executive Director, and other board members to organize the reunions and approve emergency assistance for matters pertaining to support of community members which has occurred several times in the last year.

When I think of reunions, I look at them as not merely a gathering; it's a powerful reminder of the shared bonds that weave us together as the Reconnaissance Community, a tangible expression of the enduring membership we hold within a group, no matter where life's paths may take us. My outlook on the reunion is the opportunity to rekindle connections, continue to support each other, share the identity of being Reconnaissance Marines, and Celebrate Milestones together since we do not spend each day together anymore. I believe that by revisiting our past at events such as these and the Recon Challenge we can draw inspiration for the future, reconnecting with the ideals and aspirations that we initially found within the Reconnaissance Community.

This community has a rich history and everyone that is part of it should be proud to have contributed towards its legacy! Each Reconnaissance Marine should remember that they can apply for membership into the FRA. As a member of this organization there are things such as awareness of events within the community, emergency support, networking, and the opportunity to apply for scholarships for direct family members.

As always, I wish you and your families the best during the holidays and into the New Year as well. Please feel free to reach out to me at any time as it continues to be an honor and a privilege to serve you and the Force Recon Association.

Aarugha and Semper Fi,

Cory Paskvan
MGySgt, USMC, (Ret)
corypaskvan@hotmail.com



Board Director, Tyler Freeburg

Greetings. As a board member it is my privilege and honor to continue to serve the reconnaissance community and those who support it. I would like to thank those that participated in the FRA Apparel Survey as it was a great opportunity to voice your thoughts and concerns to the board. There were approximately 240 participants for the survey with varying degrees of responses. With that being said, I will be taking over the helm regarding all apparel items for the association. This will include activity communicating with the association and our two vendors (Brother Recon and Direct Action).

In doing so, I would like to extend my contact information (tylerfreeburg@gmail.com) for those with questions, concerns, or general thoughts regarding current and future FRA items. The survey provided some great insight on a variety of topics such as desired gear, information flow, and what we need to do as a board to better support you.

Regarding the survey, there were a lot of responses indicating members were not aware of our vendors and/or had issues navigating the two websites, which ultimately created confusion on what items were available for purchase. Because of this I would like to take a few paragraphs to give a short orientation of our vendors. Both vendors are retired Reconnaissance Marines that continue their service and dedication to the community through their businesses. As Reconnaissance Marines, both vendors are similar in nature, but have their own uniqueness that makes them different.

BROTHER RECON

The CEO and Founder of Brother Recon is retired Master Gunnery Sergeant Christopher May. Brother Recon's website is www.brotherrecon.com and has a specific "FRA SHOP" tab just below the large BR on the homepage for those looking for specific FRA items. The tab will direct you to a page with the various Force Reconnaissance/FRA apparel. As you scroll down to the bottom, you will find another tab to "Load More" items. Keep clicking the tab and it will cycle you through additional pages of gear. If you are looking for general reconnaissance items, click on the "BROTHER RECON" tab on the homepage to the left of the "FRA SHOP" and again, you will have many items to choose from. You can also subscribe to his website via email for updates and/or call him at 817-501-5931 with inquiries.

DIRECT ACTION APPAREL

The CEO and Founder of Direct Action Apparel is retired Master Sergeant Bobby Restaino. Direct Action Apparel's website is <https://directactionapparel.com> and has a specific tab for FRA items under "VET/LE FUNDRAISERS" on the homepage. Click on the tab and scroll down for more pages. If you are looking for general reconnaissance items, there is an "AMPHIB RECON" tab on the homepage with just about anything you want recon. In addition, you will see on the homepage a variety of tabs that pertain to other entities such as gear, stickers, snipers, and MARSOC.

If any item is out of stock, click on the “notify me when available” tab and type your email address for notification when the item comes back in stock. Direct Action does do a lot of fundraisers and has done a variety for the FRA. These fund raisers come in the form of “pre-order” items that are usually distributed through social media and email. You can also subscribe to the website via email for updates and general information.

If you cannot find what you are looking for between the two vendors or if an item is out of stock, you can either email the vendor, which they are very receptive to and enjoy responding or let me know so we can work with both and maximize our efforts to get it. If you have a unit logo or historic artwork that you would like to see on a t-shirt, etc., please let me know. I know there were a few inquiries about Vietnam era Force Recon logos. Items usually ship within 24 hours of receiving the order, but please keep in mind that our vendors rely on other entities to ship and that delays may be incurred beyond their control.

Again, both sites do have email subscriptions that I highly recommend you subscribe to as it will be a direct link for new apparel and various information. As of now, Direct Action will be available with apparel for sale during one of the days at the hotel for our 2025 reunion in San Diego. I would highly recommend that you take some time and look through the entirety of both sites as they are loaded with items related to the reconnaissance community. In addition, you can find both vendor websites located on the FRA Homepage under the “GEAR” tab to the upper right or at <https://www.forcerecon.com/gear-shop-force-reconnassiance-marine-associaiton>.

There were a lot of great ideas on the survey for future items that we are working to get and both vendors are excited to meet the association’s needs. The survey is meant to be a quick and easy tool for the board to collect significant amounts of information in a short amount of time. I understand the headaches associated with surveys primarily due to the length of some, but our surveys are meant to be short and to the point. So please take the time to complete any future surveys as the information is greatly appreciated.

If there are any questions or concerns regarding the above information, please contact me at your convenience at tylerfreeburg@gmail.com.

Semper Fi,

Tyler Freeburg
LtCol, USMC (Ret)
Tylerfreeburg@gmail.com



Board Director, Bob Stockham

Vetting process for the FRA

I joined the FRA back in 1995. In 2008 I began vetting applicants for the FRA. Initially, it was difficult due to me not knowing any active-duty members, and they didn't have a DD214. Back then we would ask for documentation that they were in a Recon unit by showing a copy of their orders, or other documents showing their unit, training etc. Another way was to be sponsored or recommended by an FRA member.

The application for veterans required a copy of their DD214, and a signed form SF 180 requesting a chronological history of their service. The DD214 only shows your last duty station, which in my case, shows me at 9th Comm Bn with no mention of Recon.

That all changed when the Association acquired enough active-duty members that I have since relied on Senior Staff NCO members who either knew them or helped me vet them. With the expansion of the Internet, and social media, it's relatively easy to find information about anybody. One of the databases I subscribe to will tell me your name, date of birth, SSN, criminal and civil history, and your address history for the past 10 years. I rarely use this unless I can't find any information on the internet.

My most difficult vet was a gentleman who claims to have served with Bravo Company, 1st Recon in the early 60s. He had a friend that was an FRA member, but I couldn't reach them. He sent me a picture of an Abalone shell he had from sub ops on San Clemente Island, the shell had Bravo 1st Recon written on it. He said he was only with them for a few months when several of his men were transferred to Sea Duty. This was a result of the Cuban Missile Crisis where a Recon contingency was needed aboard ship for an anticipated invasion of Cuba. Things changed and the men were sent to Sea School instead and became Seagoing bell hops as we called them back then.

I verified his story through historical events, but it still wasn't enough. I submitted an SF180 to NARA but due to Covid they weren't processing any requests. Finally, after a year, the results came back, and he was accepted into our Association.

I'm proud to be a member of the FRA and am glad to see so many active-duty members who have joined. I am also proud to say very few armchair warriors with fake resumes have applied. If you encounter someone who brags about Black Ops or Ghost Ops and claims to be a Recon Marine, encourage them to join, we'll have fun!

Semper Fi,
Bob
Sgt, USMC, Veteran



Board Director, Collin D. Barry, Ph. D.

I truly hope the FRA's 2024 Annual SITREP finds everyone and their family and friends holistically well during the holiday season. In this year's SITREP, I have the distinct pleasure of announcing the 2024 FRA Scholarship awardees; we awarded a total of \$15,500 to 11 deserving members! Because the competition this year was extremely impressive, every applicant who submitted a *complete* application received a monetary award to assist them in their higher education endeavors.

On behalf of my fellow FRA Scholarship Committee members (Al Sniadecki and Lance Woodburn) I want to congratulate the following recipients for a job well done:

Virginia Woodburn

Emilie Hayes

Kaitlyn Forrest

Alexa Woodburn

Edward Lynch*

Brandon Denning

David James*

Samuel Snyder*

Cara Collier

Cate Collier

Hallie Brumfield*

*Repeat scholarship recipients (you can apply up to four times, and we encourage you to do so!)

The FRA Scholarship deadline is July 1st every year; for additional information on the requirements, please download the application packet located at the following link:

<https://www.forcerecon.com>

If anyone has questions regarding the application process, you are more than welcome to email me at collinbarry99@gmail.com. I cannot emphasize enough how honored I am to be the newest member of the FRA Scholarship Committee.

Again, happy holidays, and I hope everyone has a fulfilling New Year!

Collin D. Barry, Ph. D.
SgtMaj, USMC, (Ret)



Board Director, Morgan Jordan

Dear FRA Members,

I hope you and your families are well during this holiday season. For those I have not met in person, I hope to connect at our reunion in April. Being part of this distinguished organization is both a privilege and an honor. After three plus years on the FRA board, I still receive questions about the remarkable benefits of our great association so wanted to highlight them here.

One of the cornerstones of our commitment to the Recon Community is the annual scholarship program, which provides critical support to deserving students connected to our community. These scholarships are more than financial assistance—they represent an investment in the future and a way to honor the enduring legacy of the Reconnaissance Marines and Sailors who make up our fraternity. By supporting this program, we ensure that the next generation is equipped to carry forward our rich legacy.

In addition to fostering education, the FRA offers assistance to Recon Marines and Sailors in need. Whether it's providing financial support during times of hardship or simply being a steady presence for those who have served, we are committed to taking care of our own. This mission embodies the very essence of what it means to be part of the Recon brotherhood—a network that is strong, unwavering, and dependable, no matter the circumstances.

Finally, the annual reunions serve as a cornerstone of our mission to keep the spirit of camaraderie alive. These gatherings are more than social events—they are a chance to reconnect, share stories, and honor the bonds that make our community so unique. They remind us that while active service may have ended for some of us, our shared experiences and commitment to one another remain as strong as ever.

I encourage all of you to remain actively engaged with the association. Whether it's through participating in our programs, attending reunions, or offering your time and expertise, your involvement is invaluable to the continued success of the FRA.

With respect and gratitude,

Morgan Jordan
Major, USMC, (Ret)



UNCLASSIFIED

Advanced Sniper Course 24-2

I MEF EOTG Special Training Branch (STB) (10 June–3 July 2024)

ASC 242 Student Population:

- 2x 0321
- 3x 0317
- 1x USMC CSO
- 2x 19th SFG
- 1x NSW TM 5
- 3x ROYAL MARINES

Description: From 10 June – 3 July 2024, I MEF EOTG, STB Sniper staff taught Advanced Sniper Course 24-2 to personnel from 1st Recon Bn, V21, V31, MARSOC, NSW, and 19th SFG to provide capabilities to supported unit commands.

Purpose: The Advanced Sniper Course (ASC) is designed as follow on training for qualified snipers to enhance their technical skills and tactical mindset, enabling them to better conduct sniper operations in support of expeditionary operations. ASC qualifications and scenario training are constantly evolving in order to equip the service member with current sniper tactics, techniques, and procedures to be implemented in future operations.

Training Objectives

- Prone Fundamentals
- Tripod Positions
- Improvised Positions
- Shooter/Observer Drills
- Kestrel Class
- Ballistics Instruction
- Mission Planning and Briefing
- One Shot One Kill (OSOK) Drills
- Optical Augmentation Familiarization
- Sniper Ambush
- Loophole Application
- Shooter Spotter Dialog
- Route Planning Considerations
- Hold and Leads
- Advanced Wind Calling
- Multiple Threat Engagements
- Sniper Engagement Criteria
- Urban Climbing

Key Observations

- **Introduction of Optical Augmentation Devices:** STB's Sniper Section continues to work closely with the Naval Research Laboratory (NRL) through the Transition Manager Role Program. This program loans the Sniper Section equipment currently being employed overseas and in return the NRL receives feedback on the equipment and critiques on current employment methods for the equipment. Students are provided the opportunity to review case studies from the ongoing Ukraine -Russia conflict and employ retro -reflective lasers (RRL) and additional equipment to defeat enemy RRL capabilities.
- **AB39 7.62 LR Shortage:** The Sniper Section has experienced a drastic shortage of available 7.62 LR since 2022. A reduction from 60,000 to 984 rounds of AB39 significantly reduces the training Students will receive on their 7.62 weapon systems. EOTG will continue to push to receive their requested allotment of AB39 to ensure WESTPAC MEU's deploy with Marines trained on advance sniper tactics.



Students begin a timed competition using climbing techniques to infiltrate a building.



Students utilize climbing techniques during support of a MRF raid scenario.



Practical application of a vehicle firing position during the LAPD final OSOK Drill



Improvised position qual forces students to adjust to make a stable position from an unconventional platform.



Students engaging shots from a high angle.



Students experience a counterfattack after engaging an HVT.

Key Takeaway: ASC 24-2 challenged the unique student population that was both diverse in experience and skills. STB staff were able to confirm each branch/country standard and identify uniformed gaps in sniper training across the DOD and allied nations. EOTG will continue to fight for the required and necessary allotment of 7.62 LR in order to properly train Students on their weapon systems.



UNCLASSIFIED

Close Quarters Tactics & I

Special Training Branch (STB), I MEF EOTG-7

12 Aug-20 Sep 2024

CQTC Student Population

- 20x 0321
- 2x L02A
- 1x 0621

Description: From 12 Aug– 20 Sep 2024, I MEF EOTG, STB(CQT Section) conducted a six weeks of Close Quarters Tactics (CQT) I & II with Reconnaissance Marines and Sailors and Critical Enablers from 1st Platoon, Company C, 1st Reconnaissance Battalion.

Purpose: The condensed, six-week CQT package is designed to train designated personnel assigned to 1st Recon Battalion in the Tactics, Techniques, and Procedures (TTP's) necessary to fight effectively in confined spaces and challenging environment. CQTC provides the baseline skills and education required for conducting precision limited scale raids, Visit, Board, Search, and Seize (VBSS), and Gas and Oil Platforms (GOPLAT) operations.

Training Objectives:

- **Phase I – Basic Marksmanship and Maneuver:** Phase I builds the foundation for follow on skill sets throughout the course. This phase begins with basic weapons manipulation, employing the rifle and pistol, and ends with a qualification on both weapon systems. This phase also incorporates Special Operations Combative Program (SOCP) training, as well as ballistic, mechanical and explosive breaching.
- **Phase II – House Tactics and Advanced Marksmanship:** During this phase, students receive advanced marksmanship training coupled with clearing tactics at EOTG's R130 complex shoot houses. Students conduct both live fire and force on force CQT training.
- **Phase III – Platoon Assaults:** Phase III consists of classroom instruction, demonstration, and practical application of team and platoon level assaults. This phase begins with team/platoon clears with shotgun breaching and ends with platoon full mission profile limited scale raids.

Captions:

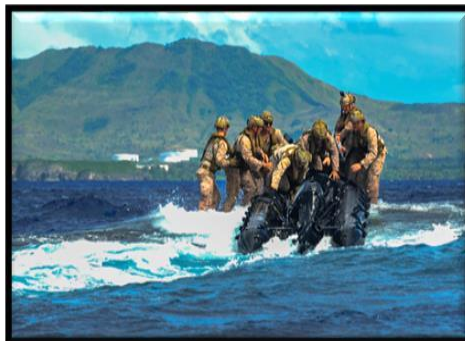
1. A Marine executes a marksmanship drill utilizing the M27 Recon Weapon Kit (RWK) during Phase 1 of the training package.
2. STB's Contractors teach Special Operations Combative Program (SOCP) techniques to Reconnaissance Marines.
3. An element conducts live fire training focused on 4 man clearing tactics.
4. STB Contractor supervises shooters executing a marksmanship drill focused on weapons manipulation, footwork and kinesthetic awareness.



Key Takeaway: Members of C Co, 1st Recon Bn conducted over 60 hours of marksmanship training, 12 hours of SOCP training, and 80 hours of CQT training including live fire & force on force clearing tactics; explosive, mechanical and manual breaching; medical and EOD scenarios; integrated communication training, and raid infiltration/on/exfiltration considerations. Marines and Sailors of Charlie Company now have a strong foundation for conducting specialized limited scale raids.



Recon Marines and Sailors conducting Joint airborne operations at Porterville, CA. This training enabled a Category III Parachuting Qualification for specialized insertion methods in support of Global Force Management Requirements. The Category III Military Freefall (MFF) qualification mitigates risk for supported commanders and the inserting airframe through a rigorous and progressive program of jump profiles and stand-off ranges.



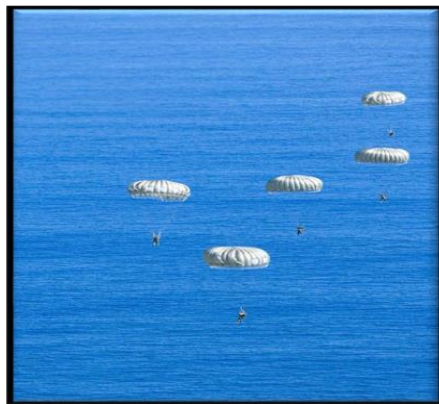
Marines and Sailors launching a newly fielded E-CRRC at Kin Blue via Softduck from a CH-53.

Scout swimmer operations in Apra Outer Harbor, Naval Base Guam.



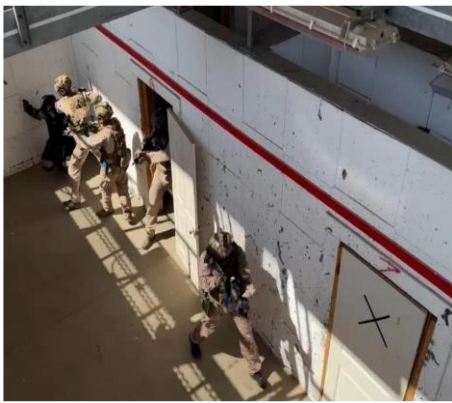


Recon Marines and Sailors take part in a three-week Foundational Offroad Electrified Dirt Bike Course. This new Dirt Bike curriculum significantly reduced fiscal and time resources needed to qualify and license battalion electrified motorcycle operators while sustaining the ability to generate operators capable of operating under combat loads in day and low-light conditions. After developing an understanding of the basics, individuals donned combat equipment to develop proficiency in off road riding with tactical loadouts.



Battalion led Joint Jump Operations at le Shima Drop Zone, safely delivering (58) LLSL jumpers and an air-delivered bundle. Marines aerated chutes in the Battalion drying tower following Joint Jump Operations.





Maritime Reconnaissance Platoon (MRP) executed combined company level raids.

Training included, military operations in urbanized terrain (MOUT), integrated planning, day and nighttime rehearsals, and two full mission profile nighttime raids.



Early Marine Recon History

Excerpted from [MARSOC: U.S. Marine Corps Special Operations Command](#) by Fred Pushies.

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WWII

The history of Recon Marines begins in World War II, when two units were formed: the Raider Battalion, which was created in January 1942 with the intention of providing the Marines a light-force raid unit much like the British Royal Marine Commandos, and the "Observation Group" of the 1st Marine Division, comprised of two officers and 20 enlisted men. The latter was expanded to 98 Marines in 1943, renamed the Amphibious Recon Company and served in the Pacific, where their success led to another expansion to 20 officers, 270 enlisted and 13 Navy doctors. The Observation Group participated in landings for the rest of the war, including Tinian Island, Iwo Jima and Okinawa.

Amphibious Reconnaissance Company

On January 7, 1943, the Observer Group, which had been created in 1942, was re-designated the Amphibious Reconnaissance Company under the command of Capt. James L. Jones. In the summer of 1943, the Amphibious Corps would be reorganized, and the ARC would become V Amphibious Corps, or VAC Amphib Recon Company.

During operations on Apamama, Majuro, and Eniwetok, VAC Amphib Recon Company was assigned to pinpoint the location of the enemy throughout the atolls. The VAC Amphib Recon Battalion underwent further evolution on April 14, 1944, when it became the Amphibious Reconnaissance Battalion with a complement of twenty officers, two hundred seventy enlisted Marines, and thirteen Navy corpsmen. Worth noting is that at the same time, Marines were attached to the "coast watcher" units, and recon teams from "Special Service Unit Number 1" served the forces in the Southwest Pacific.

A pivotal moment for the Reconnaissance Marines would come in July 1944 when Marine Lt. Gen. Holland Smith and Vice Adm. Kelly Turner disagreed on the proposed landing sites for the assault on Tinian Island. Armed with only Ka-Bar knives, the Marines of the Amphibious Reconnaissance Company, VAC, were tasked with surveying two beaches that Smith had chosen as possible locations for the landing.

Brigadier General Russell Corey (Ret.) relates: "There were two landing sites, White 2 and White 1. The beaches were about sixty yards and one hundred sixty yards respectively. [Corey] and Gunny Charles Patrick (Major, Ret.) led the two recon teams. The first night the current was so strong we could only conduct the recon on one of the beaches. The next night we returned and were able to do both landing sites."

Based on VAC's findings, the site choice went to General Smith, and beaches White 1 and White 2 were chosen for the landing of two Marine divisions on Tinian. General Corey adds: "Had the division gone ashore on the spot picked by Kelley, it would have been a slaughter. The Japs had gun emplacements and artillery all lined up in the Tinian Town location." The Recon Marines had earned their pay and would see subsequent use in Iwo Jima and Okinawa, as well as other amphibious assaults in the Pacific.

Korea

The need for Marine recon became prominent again in the Korean War, where the Amphibious Recon Company was called upon to make landings in North Korea and report back their findings. It also carried out

raids against tunnels and rail lines, with some of these missions taking place as much as 40 miles inside enemy territory. Recon members operated closely with U.S. Navy underwater demolition teams during some of their missions. In March 1951, the force was expanded and named the 1st Amphibious Recon Platoon, and continued to serve after the end of the war. In 1957, the 1st Company of "Force" Recon Marines was formed, and the 2nd Company Force Recon was formed in June 1958. In 2006, as part of the reorganization under MARSOC, both companies were deactivated, and force reconnaissance currently is carried out by the 1st and 2nd Reconnaissance Battalions, under the 1st and 2nd Marine Divisions, respectively.

Birth of Force Recon

Reconnaissance, as it is known today, was activated on June 19, 1957, with the creation of 1st Amphibious Reconnaissance Company, FMFPAC, under the command of Maj. Bruce F. Meyers. Located out of Camp Pendleton, California, this newly organized company would be formed into three platoons: an amphibious reconnaissance platoon, a parachute reconnaissance platoon, and a pathfinder reconnaissance platoon. Subsequently, in 1958, half of the company was transferred from Camp Pendleton to Camp Lejeune, to form the 2nd Force Reconnaissance Company, FMFLANT, under the command of Capt. Joe Taylor, and thus supported the 2nd Marine Division. It would be another four years before the Navy SEALs would come on the scene, and another eleven years before the Army would designate a counterpart to Force Recon with the creation of LRRPs (long-range recon patrols).

As the country progressed into a new decade, Marine Force Recon also advanced in its tactics, techniques, and procedures. These men, proficient in land navigations, small arms tactics, and patrolling, as well as having earned their jump wings, would now master the skills of attacking from the sea. Fast boats, rubber rafts, and submarines were not new to the Marines, who had used these craft as platforms during World War II and Korea. Methods of locking-in and -out of submarines and buoyant ascents would serve the Force Recon Marines in performing their missions.

The Vietnam War

Members of 1st Force Reconnaissance Company were deployed to Vietnam in 1965. 2nd Force had the assignment of training new Recon Marines to be sent to Southeast Asia. The Force Recon Marines at Camp Lejeune would also serve as the primary unit should any other contingency arise elsewhere that required the attention of the Marine Corps. Sensing the need for additional reconnaissance capabilities in country, the Marine Corps formed 3rd Force Company (1965). 1st Force would make their home in Dong Ha, while 3rd Force was in Quang Tri.

Force Recon and Battalion Recon Post Vietnam

Within the Marine Air-Ground Task Force there are two reconnaissance units: one of these is Force Reconnaissance Company, while the other is Battalion Recon (sometimes referred to as Division Recon) platoon, which is under the commander of the combat element. The Force Recon Company works directly for the MEF commanding general, normally a three-star, or directly for the MEU (SOC) commander, providing tactical and strategic reconnaissance and limited scale raids (e.g., GOPLAT, VBSS, demolition raids, etc.) in the deep battlespace. Force Recon covers the commander's area of interest: the edge of the artillery fan and beyond. Battalion Recon covers the commander's area of influence: within the artillery fan (approximately thirty kilometers from the forward line of troops).

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 pre-Vietnam 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 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: 5TH FORCE RECON 10/1966-11/67, 3RD FORCE RECON 12/1967 - 1/1969, 3RD RECON BN 2/1969-4/1971). IF EXACT DATES ARE NOT KNOWN, USE YEARS ONLY.

2025 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



Randy A. Dierlam, FRA# 1639

Died 13 AUG 2024

GySgt Wesley R. 'Wes' Johnson USMC (ret), FRA# 1711

Died 26 JUN 2024

HM3 Jack Francis, FRA# 3058

Died 9 FEB 2024

John J. 'Silky' Tintiangco, FRA# 2359

Died 4 JAN 2024



You Will Be Missed and Never Forgotten.



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

FRA Memorabilia:

Direct Action Apparel
<https://directactionapparel.com/search?q=FRA>

Brother Recon
<https://www.brotherrecon.com/fra-shop>

Send info updates to the
CommChief, Steve Luebbert:
Commchief@Forcerecon.com

FRA Scholarship Info:
See FRA Web Site
<https://www.ForceRecon.com>

For web site questions:
info@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 of 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

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

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