

# SITREP

VOLUME 36 ISSUE 1 DECEMBER 2023

LINK FOREVER THOSE WHO SERVED TOGETHER

NEWSLETTER OF THE



## In This Issue:

- Message from your President
- Message from your Executive Director
- Operation Data Cleanup
- Membership Criteria
- Taps

## 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](mailto:CommChief@ForceRecon.com)

Al Sniadecki



## Message from your President

### December 2023

As I look back on this past year, I am pleased to report that we have continued to deliver all of our standing support activities (eg., 2023 Recon Challenge, FRA Scholarship Program, financial support for hardships) as well as conducting our traditional reunion gathering that was held at MCB Quantico this year. We welcomed 41 new members to the FRA Community and witnessed three of our active duty Board Directors retire in 2023.

We are able to continue our mission of service to our Recon Community ONLY because our Board and civilian patriots and our corporate partners continue to provide their time, talents and treasure to keep our mission moving forward. I am grateful and honored to serve with each of you.

Finally, I want to extend a special thanks to our Brother, Tim Taylor and his staff for donating a wonderful vacation stay in Destin, Florida, and a huge thank you to Brother Mike Root for donating a New Mexico lion hunt this year. Your generosity is greatly appreciated!!

### 2023-24 Academic Scholarships Announced

The FRA Scholarship Committee is pleased to announce the following individuals have been awarded FRA Scholarship grants for 2023-2024 academic year:

Recipient – Cole Anderson	FRA Sponsor – Tony Anderson
Recipient – Zachery Barry	FRA Sponsor – Collin Barry
Recipient – Hallie Brumfield	FRA Sponsor – Jay Navadel
Recipient – Joy Franks	FRA Sponsor – Jacob Franks
Recipient – David James	FRA Sponsor – Lance Woodburn
Recipient – Joseph Lind	FRA Sponsor – Joshua Lind
Recipient – Edward Lynch	FRA Sponsor – Ed Lynch
Recipient – Leiana Nelums	FRA Sponsor – Joshua Nelums
Recipient – Samuel Shin	FRA Sponsor – Samuel Shin
Recipient – Samuel Snyder	FRA Sponsor – Charles Snyder
Recipient – Riley Welock	FRA Sponsor – Joseph Welock

We convey our congratulations and very best wishes for your continued academic success!

### FRA Officers Elected for 2023-24 Term

The following members (in good standing) were elected to the 2023-24 term by the membership attending the annual membership meeting:

- President: Al Sniadecki**
- Vice President/Executive Director: Dave Jarvis**
- Secretary: Paul Barrett**
- Treasurer: Brad Dierlam**
- CommChief: Steve Luebbert**

We look forward to a productive new year for all of our Recon Community!

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On behalf of our entire community, I wish to convey a happy, healthy, and productive 2024 to all our 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.

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](mailto:info@forcerecon.com) or to any of the following: [Commchief@forcerecon.com](mailto:Commchief@forcerecon.com), [al@alsniadecki.com](mailto:al@alsniadecki.com) or to [jarvisda77@gmail.com](mailto:jarvisda77@gmail.com). We will see to it that your new contact information gets into our database. Also, you can fill out the “OPERATION DATA CLEANUP” sheet included in this newsletter and mail it in.

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

*Al Sniadecki, President*



USMC Museum, Quantico, Virginia

Dave Jarvis



## A Message from your Executive Director

### Executive Director's Report and 2023 Reunion Highlights

Good day Marines, Sailors, Families, and Friends. It was great to see those of you who were able to attend this year's reunion in Quantico, Virginia! As always, it was a memorable gathering filled with lots of amazing camaraderie. My wife, Tina, and I had an outstanding time visiting everyone and it was great to be amongst the world's finest! Pictures from our event can be found on our website: [www.forcerecon.com](http://www.forcerecon.com)

The reunion kicked off by gathering in our hospitality suite and sharing stories of over six decades! It is an honor to be in a room filled with legends that have paved the way of who we are today as a Reconnaissance Community! After everyone checked in, we had lunch, followed by our membership meeting.

Thanks to all of you who serve our organization, it is truly a team effort, and you all are outstanding ambassadors of our community.

Day two consisted of a trip to the Marine Corps Museum, having lunch at the Tun Tavern and watching the film "We The Marines" in the IMAX Theatre! The Museum Staff welcomed us and served as tour guides for small groups seeking more information about specific conflicts throughout our history. The Marine Corps Museum opened on November 10th, 2006. For those of you who have never visited and toured the ground, I highly recommend taking the time to do so. Day three consisted of visiting the Breacher Schoolhouse where the instructors spoke about the current tactics, techniques, and procedures of negotiating obstacles. A few of our members partook in some mechanical breaching with the sledge and hooligan! The instructors ended our visit with a live thermal and cutting demonstration. We then were whisked away, by good old Marine Corps bus transportation, to the Operational Test Facility to get hands on some of the newest equipment our Marines will use in the future. The staff explained to us that their mission is to test and evaluate equipment to ensure the Troops are provided the best tools on the battlefield. Our final visit of the day was the Raids and Recon compound. There, we had lunch with the Marines, Sailors, and Staff. The tour of their compound consisted of looking at the most current jump and dive equipment used today!

Our final day spent together was in the Crossroads Event Center, where our charitable auction and Memorial Banquet dinner was held. Together, our auction, raised nearly \$24,000! A big thanks to those who donated some of their personal items. With a few extra bucks in the bank, we will be able to increase our scholarship contributions and assist our active duty, veterans, and their families, as needed. If any of you have ideas or suggestions for a 2024 raffle, please contact me directly. I would like to recognize our top donors from 2023:

- Mike Root, ten-day mountain lion hunt (raffle): \$6,000+
- Bergara Rifle \$5,000+
- Staccato Pistol: \$2,000
- FN AR: \$1,800
- Trijicon Optics: \$1,300+
- Streamlight, products: \$1,000+
- Smith and Wesson Pistol: \$900
- Leopold Optics and Gear: \$700+
- Joe Kowalski, fishing trip: \$600
- Glock Certificate: \$500
- Magpul products: \$500+

Our culminating event was the remembrance of our fallen Marines and Sailors during the Memorial Banquet Dinner. We had approximately 150 Members, Family, Friends, and Active-Duty/Reserve Service Members in attendance! It was truly a wonderful time to come together, share camaraderie and honor our Fallen Brothers.

Our annual gathering doesn't take place without the commitment of our Board of Directors and several "behind the scenes" key players. I'd like to personally thank our President, Al Sniadecki for his years of hard work and commitment that he continues to give our organization. I'd like to thank our Board Members that made it to Quantico, Paul Barrett, Brad Dierlam, Sam Shin, Collin Barry and Cory Paskvan. To Sharon Shutts, Sara Sniadecki and Tina Jarvis, who continuously provide assistance, we thank you! Our financial advisor, John Greenway. John was able to make it to Quantico to personally brief the Membership and Board of Directors on our 2023 investments. The reunion was a great success because of everyone's support.

As proposed by the Board of Directors and approved by the membership, **our next reunion will be held in Camp Pendleton, California.** Reunion dates are tentatively set for **3rd week in April of 2025.** Our primary excursion will be to spectate the Annual Recon Challenge. Expect to receive your Reunion Registration Form, via email, in November of 2024. Registration will also be available on our FRA Website.

#### **Upcoming events for 2024:**

-A few of our Board of Directors will be attending the annual Shot Shot to say thanks to our loyal sponsors who continue to support our charitable auction. Additionally, we try to create relationships with other organizations for future support.

-15th Annual Recon Challenge to be held on April 24, 2025. More information can be found at: <https://www.trngcmd.marines.mil/Units/School-of-Infantry-West/Advanced-Infantry-Training-Battalion/Reconnaissance-Training-Company/>

In closing, I want to wish each of you and your families a memorable and prosperous 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 the Force Recon Association.

Semper Fidelis,  
**MSgt Dave Jarvis, USMC (Ret)**  
**Executive Director**

Hospitality Suite, Events Center, MCB Quantico





**Raids and Recon, MCB Quantico**



**Breacher Instructors demonstrate thermal and cutting breaching techniques**

**OPERATION DATA CLEANUP:**

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

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

**Please take the time to complete the information below and email back to**

**[Commchief@forcerecon.com](mailto:Commchief@forcerecon.com) or mail it back to**

**FRA, P.O. BOX 111000, Carrollton, TX 75011.**

**NAME:**

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**FRA MEMBER #:**

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**MAILING ADDRESS:**

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**TELEPHONE:**

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**EMAIL ADDRESS:** (print clearly)

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

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

## 2024 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



Ronald R. Yerman, FRA # 1825	Died 2023
Michael L. 'Mike' Figueroa, FRA# 18	Died 27 JAN 2023
Col. Donald J. Norris USMC (ret), FRA 176	Died 1MAR 2023
SSgt Vernon W. Rojek USMC (ret), FRA 2717	Died 18 MAY 2023
MSgt John F. Hare USMC (ret), FRA 266	Died 26 MAY 2023
MGySgt James W. Hager USMC (ret), FRA 263	Died 4 AUG 2023
Ryan L. 'Beigh' Beighley AR WWII, FRA 2228	Died 5 NOV 2023
MSgt Lawrence E. 'Larry' Keen USMC (ret), FRA 176	Died 13 NOV 2023



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



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

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

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

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

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

<https://www.ForceRecon.com>

## Back Page Info

### About Our Organization...

The Force Recon Association Inc (FRA) was formally established on 21 September 1989, as a non-profit fraternal veterans association, in accordance with provisions of Section 501(c)19 of the United States Internal Revenue Code.

Our mission and our motto is **“Link Forever Those Who Served Together”**

The FRA strives to maintain and foster fellowship, comradeship and perpetuate the ideals and professionalism between and among its members and the members of our reconnaissance units, whether Force or Battalion Recon, Regular 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](mailto:Commchief@forcerecon.com)

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

### Board of Directors and Officers: 2022-TBD

Al Sniadecki  
President

David Jarvis  
Vice President

Paul Barrett  
Secretary

Brad Dierlam  
Treasurer

David Jarvis  
Executive Director

Steve Luebbert  
Communications Chief

Collin Barry  
Director

Bob Stockham  
Director

Cody Carroll  
Director

Cory Paskvan  
Director

Morgan Jordon  
Director

Sam Shin  
Director

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