

SITREP

VOLUME 32 ISSUE 2 DECEMBER 2020

LINK FOREVER THOSE WHO SERVED TOGETHER

NEWSLETTER OF THE

FORCE RECON



ASSOCIATION
U.S. MARINE CORPS

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REMINDER!

- Dues are due in January each year. You can visit our web site and pay online with PayPal.
- Have you moved? Please send us your new info.
- Have you changed your email address? If you don't tell us we can't contact you.
- An electronic version (Adobe pdf) of the FRA Member Roster is also available at no charge. Send an email request to CommChief@ForceRecon.com



Al Sniadecki

Letter from your President

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE – December 2020

Having recently celebrated the 245th birthday of our beloved Corps, and the 82nd observance of Veterans Day, my thoughts and memories go back over fifty years as I recall my time in the Corps, and most important to me, remembering those Brothers with whom I had the privilege to serve. For those of us who remain, we have etched on our hearts, the

names of those warriors who were lost...but will never be forgotten. "Fair winds and following seas" my Brothers and Sisters and save a few billets for those of us yet to arrive at our final duty station!

If asked to describe 2020 in a word or two, I can think of several military terms or slogans that might be very fitting: terms like "fubar" or "cluster ..." just to name a couple of them. This year, the FRA, like most other organizations experienced some disappointing setbacks. As most of you know, we had to cancel our annual reunion for the second straight year, just as the Recon Challenge at Camp Pendleton was being cancelled and most military facilities were placed "off limits" to civilian and "nonessential" personnel. For me, the most telling instance of just how bad things could get was the Commandant cancelling all large celebrations/gatherings for the Marine Corps Birthday. Nevertheless, the FRA has moved forward with its mission to serve our Recon Marines and Sailors and we still achieved several significant accomplishments this year. We look forward to a much better, healthier, and stable 2021 for our families, our members and our Nation.

Announcing the New and Improved FRA Website 2020!

This past Summer, the FRA Board approved a long overdue project to update and 'modernize' the FRA website. Additionally, the Board approved a vendor agreement with Ms. Jessie Edmondson, who owns and operates EdmondsonCo LLC to perform the necessary work. Being a former Marine, Jessie proved to be an excellent choice to provide the necessary expertise to accomplish this daunting mission. After three plus months of some intense review and revision, I am very pleased to announce that the new FRA website is now up and running. I encourage EVERY member to get on a computer and check out the new site and features...the web address is the same as before: www.forcerecon.com Some features of the new website include:

- The entire FRA website has been updated with the latest information, forms, photos and sitreps from our active units.

- FRA Membership applications and member dues can be completed from the new website AND there is an automatic renewal feature for those who prefer not having to renew manually each year.
- A separate link to the FRA charities is now included on the website.
- A separate link to our memorabilia partners is now included and merchandise can be ordered directly from these links.
- All reunion photos and history has been saved and available for viewing on the website.
- Our Honor Page has been updated to remember our fallen warriors with the latest information available.

We welcome any comments and/or feedback regarding the new site. Please contact me, Dave, Steve, or any FRA board member with your input, and thanks in advance for checking the new www.forcerecon.com

ATTENTION PLEASE! Requesting HONOR Page Information from our Members

As I stated above, we have updated our HONOR page on the FRA website to the extent that we received current information regarding any of our fallen Recon Marines or Marine support personnel, but we are missing photos and information on many of our fallen, and especially pre-gulf war individuals who made the ultimate sacrifice. If you have any information regarding these individuals, you can help perpetuate the memory of our Brothers. PLEASE FORWARD your information to Jessie Edmondson at edmondsoncollc@gmail.com. Jessie will update our HONOR page with the material you submit. Thank you!

2020 FRA Rifle Raffle is Huge Success!

Thanks to the intrepid efforts and leadership of our Executive Director, Dave Jarvis, his wife, Tina, and some support from a handful of FRA board members, the FRA Bergara Rifle raffle raised over \$20,000 for the FRA charities this year. Congratulations to SgtMaj Dan Knouse who is the recipient of the Bergara 300wm! A live video of the drawing can be found on the home page of our new website. I want to point out that this was the only major fundraising event we were able to conduct this year, and these funds covered the cost of our 2020 FRA scholarships without having to withdraw funds from the principal in our charity account.

SgtMaj Dan Knouse, recipient of the 2020 rifle raffle alongside Executive Director, Dave Jarvis.



2020-21 FRA Scholarship Recipients

I am pleased to announce that the FRA has awarded 18 scholarships to the following FRA members and/or dependents (in alphabetical order) for the 2020-21 academic year:

Recipient: Chloe Adams-White	Sponsor: Wesley Johnson
Recipient: Victoria Alvarado	Sponsor: Andrew Carver
Recipient: Brook Bourdony	Sponsor: Nathaniel Guy
Recipient: Sarah Brumfield	Sponsor: Jay Navadel
Recipient: Caitlyn DeBlaay	Sponsor: Joseph DeBlaay
Recipient: Michael Geller	Sponsor: Chuck Geller
Recipient: Hannah Green	Sponsor: Halsey Green
Recipient: Gavin Grove	Sponsor: Brent Grove
Recipient: Rachel Grove	Sponsor: Brent Grove
Recipient: Chelsea Hranek	Sponsor: Nathaniel Guy
Recipient: Matthew James	Sponsor: Lance Woodburn
Recipient: Patrick James	Sponsor: Lance Woodburn
Recipient: Claire Leidy	Sponsor: Robert Leidy
Recipient: Shelly Lynch	Sponsor: Ed Lynch
Recipient: Carly Perrine	Sponsor: John Perrine
Recipient: Ekaterina Polinski	Sponsor: David Polinski
Recipient: Ava Polinski	Sponsor: David Polinski
Recipient: Lisa Yarolem	Sponsor: Brian Yarolem

Congratulations to our 2020 scholars and best wishes for your continued academic success!

MGySgt Padilla Fundraiser

As many of you know, MGySgt “Chunks” Padilla USMC (ret) lost his home and belongings to one of the forest fires near Bridgeport, California. The call went out to support our Brother in need and I am pleased to announce that our FRA members have contributed \$12,241 to date to support Padilla and his family. When added to the other contributions raised by our Reconnaissance Community, the total exceeds \$100,000. On behalf of Master Guns Padilla, I want to thank our members for their generosity and brotherhood! Merry Christmas!

Finally, we convey our continued gratitude and a special “welcome home” and Merry Christmas to our Reconnaissance Marines, and Corpsmen returning from deployments. To our Brothers and Sisters still engaged in the fight, we offer 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 Commchief@forcerecon.com, or to alsniadecki@netzero.net, 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.**

Al Sniadecki, President

Dave Jarvis



A Message from your Executive Director

Hello Members and Friends of the Force Recon Association. The planning for our 2021 Reunion has begun! As many of you know, we were unable to gather this last year due to Covid and no doubt there will be some hurdles for us to cross as we go into 2021. I want to get the information out as early as possible, so you can plan accordingly. Our reunion this coming year is scheduled for 28 April to 2 May in San Diego, California. **Attached to this SITREP is the schedule of events and registration forms.** At the bottom of this email are instructions for hotel reservations.

Please note that California is currently NOT ALLOWING group gatherings; however, at this time we are able to reserve and plan our event. We will

keep our fingers crossed that this vaccine will get our nation back to a more normal routine. With that said, we will make a decision 30 days out to go forward or postpone the event, **and we will attempt to reschedule the reunion for August/September 2021 in the San Diego area.**

Reservation Instructions:

Thank you for selecting the Holiday Inn San Diego Bayside to host the overnight accommodations for our event scheduled [from 4/28/21-5/2/21](#). **Our group code is NIU** and your group rates are valid for booking [through 3/25/21](#).

Click here: [Force Recon Association](#) to proceed directly to the reservation desk.

The group rate is available for three days pre and post event based on room availability via the provided link or contact hotel reservations directly at Holiday Inn San Diego Bayside. Call [1\(619\) 224-3621](#), ask for reservations (Ext: 701) or call toll free [1\(800\) 662-8899](#).

The link goes to the standard reservations page with your group code preloaded. Individual guests need to input their arrival and departure dates which need to fall with-in the group contract dates (+/- 3 days) and click "Check Availability" to go to the group's specific rate and availability page. From there select a room type that you prefer and input personal details to complete the reservation. Guests may also use their IHG Rewards number with the group rate.

As always if you have any questions please feel free to contact me at any time.

Happy New Year to you and your Family!

Dave Jarvis
Executive Director
Force Recon Association
Jarvisda77@gmail.com
C: (760) 716-3713

**2021 FRA Reunion****April 28th – May 1st 2021****San Diego, CA****Event Schedule****Wednesday – April 28th, Holiday Inn Bayside, Harborview Room (5th Floor)****1300 - 1700** Reunion Check-In

(Registration packets will include schedule of events, name badges, Hold Harmless Agreement and Recon Challenge Map). Hospitality Room open for snacks and beverages

1930 - 2000 Members Welcome Brief and Schedule Overview**Thursday – April 29th, Holiday Inn Bayside****0900 - 1100** FRA Board Meeting, Bayside Bar (1st Floor)**1200 - 1400** General Membership Meeting and Luncheon, Harborview Room (5th Floor)**1500 – 2200** Hospitality Room open for snacks and beverages**Friday – April 30th, 52 Area, Camp Pendleton****0400 - 1800** Recon Challenge Note: There will be two am departures from Holiday Inn, TBD
(Lunch and refreshments will be available at the Recon Challenge site.)**1800 – TBD** Recon Challenge Awards Ceremony (There will be two pm departures from ceremony site)**2000 – 2200** Hospitality Room open for snacks and beverages**Saturday – May 1st, Holiday Inn Bayside****0900 - 1200** FRA Charities Auction, Harborview Room (5th Floor)**(ALL MEMBERS ARE ENCOURAGED TO PROVIDE CHARITY AUCTION ITEMS)****1700 - 1800** Cocktail Hour, Main Ball Room**1800 - 2230** Formal Memorial Banquet & Dancing, Main Ball Room

(Special Dietary requirements for dinner should be requested NO LATER THAN the day before the banquet.)

2230 - Comp Hospitality Room open for snacks and beverages**Any changes to the schedule above will be posted in the hospitality room.**



Registration Form

RECON 2021: San Diego, CA

Return this Page to:
FRA - PO BOX 111000
Carrollton, TX 75011

Please Print Clearly

Name: _____

FRA#: _____

Address: _____ City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Headquarters Hotel is the Holiday Inn San Diego, Bayside. Use Group Code: NIU. For hotel reservations, call (619) 224-3621 or call toll free (800) 662-8899. The block of rooms will continue to be held until the **cutoff date of March 25th, 2021**. Reservations received after March 25th will be provided on a space available basis.

Fill this page out and return with check or money order to the address above. Each guest must be registered. If needed, use additional paper. The registration fee applies to the FRA member only. You may register an unlimited number of guests and your Registration fee is only \$35. Hospitality Room open for snacks and beverages.

REGISTRATION FEE.....** (Non Refundable)**** \$35.00**

RECON 2021 Activities (OPTIONAL) **Cost per Person X # of Persons for Each Event**

Wednesday – April 28th

- 1300 – 1700 Reunion Check-In @ Holiday Inn San Diego Bayside
- 1800 – 1900 Members Welcome Brief and Schedule Overview

Thursday – April 29th

- 0900 – 1100 FRA Board Meeting \$25.00 X # _____ \$ _____
- 1200 – 1400 General Membership Meeting and Luncheon

Friday – April 30th

- 0400 - 1800 Recon Challenge Event \$30.00 X # _____ \$ _____
(Transportation and Lunch Included)
- 1800 - 2000 Recon Challenge Awards Ceremony

Saturday – May 1st

- 0900 - 1200 FRA Charities Auction
- 1700 - 1800 Cocktail Hour
- 1800 - 2230 Formal Memorial Banquet and Dancing \$55.00 X # _____ \$ _____

TOTAL DUE: \$ _____

GUEST Participant Information (Add unlimited guests on additional paper. All guests must be registered)

Guest 1

First Name: _____
Last Name: _____
Home Town, State: _____

Guest 2

First Name: _____
Last Name: _____
Home Town, State: _____

Guest 3

First Name: _____
Last Name: _____
Home Town, State: _____

Guest 1

First Name: _____
Last Name: _____
Home Town, State: _____

Guest 2

First Name: _____
Last Name: _____
Home Town, State: _____

Guest 3

First Name: _____
Last Name: _____
Home Town, State: _____

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 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.

2021 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



Garrett Charles "Garry" Soulè, - FRA Life Member 1102

Died 19 JUN 2020

Beth Rubenfeld, - spouse of Elliot H. "J.J." Rubenfeld, FRA 1161

Died 24 MAY 2020

HMC Brian R. "Doc" Bates - FRA 306

Died 29 AUG 2018

James Norman "Winnipeg" Morse - FRA 1470

Died 29 MAR 2020

Capt. James F. Benson Jr.

Died 28 JAN 2020



You Will Be Missed and Never Forgotten.



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

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

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

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

We're on the Web!

See us at:

www.ForceRecon.com

Back Page Info

About Our Organization...

The Force Recon Association Inc (FRA) was formally established on 21 September 1989, as a non-profit fraternal veterans association, in accordance with provisions of Section 501(c)19 of the United States Internal Revenue Code. Our mission and our motto is "Link Forever Those Who Served Together"

The FRA strives to maintain and foster fellowship, comradeship and perpetuate the ideals and professionalism between and among its members and the members of our reconnaissance units, whether Force or Battalion Recon, Regular or Reserve.

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

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

Board of Directors and Officers: 2018-2020

Al Sniadecki
President

Paul Clifford
Vice President

Paul Barrett
Secretary

James McGaughey III
Treasurer

David Jarvis
Executive Director

Steve Luebbert
Communications Chief

Collin Barry
Director

Billy Branch
Director

Cody Carroll
Director

Cory Paskvan
Director

Patrick Zuber
Director

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

