

MARINE RECONNAISSANCE FOUNDATION



FALL 2021
Vol I Issue 3



ANNUAL PROGRAMS

- Recon Gold Star Family Retreat
- Wounded Teammate and Family Retreat
- Recon Gold Star Children's Retreat
- Recon Owned Business Grant Program
- Financial Support to the Annual Recon Challenge

OUR MISSION:

We support the Reconnaissance Community through action. We are committed to providing support to our teammates and their families — both active and former members — through annual, reoccurring programs and appropriate emergent or emergency funds, all generously provided by our donors, supporters and sponsors.

All supported initiatives are aimed at enriching the well-being of our warriors and their families.

Our services include:

- ◆ Deliberate/Reoccurring Programs
- ◆ Emergent/Emergency Support
- ◆ History and Traditions Preservation

These form the core of our three Marine Recon Foundation "Lines of Effort," or LOEs.

We provide wide-ranging support,

to include an extensive assessment of our programs contributing directly to the success and preservation of the Reconnaissance Legacy.

Our mission is to provide immediate and ongoing support and assistance to the Active-duty and Veteran Marine Reconnaissance Community and their families.

Incorporated in 2013, MRF is a nationally-registered 501(c)(3) non-profit organization. We are eternally grateful for all your continued support to our members and families.

LINES OF EFFORT 2: Deliberate Program

Wounded Teammates Gather at 2021 Retreat in Montana

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You may think, retreat? Recon Marines don't retreat!

But on August 15, 2021, the Recon Marines stormed the beaches of Whitefish Lake, Montana, like no other. Their mission was different this time: They came together to heal and to reunite with their brothers. This group spanned twenty years in age and service and came from every corner of the nation. They all had one thing in common — their service and sacrifice to our nation.

For this annual retreat, our group tripled in size this year, as did the laughter and fun as they navigated the beautiful mountains, national park and lakes of the region. The



guys relived the fun and camaraderie of being a part of a team as they traversed the hills of

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UPDATE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Aloha to our teammates and supporters! As we close a very successful calendar year 2021, the Reconnaissance Foundation is excited about what we have planned for 2022!

To close out 2021, I am happy to report that we have been able to execute each of our Lines Of Effort successfully, time on target. Since the last newsletter update in August 2021 we have been extremely busy supporting our teammates and their families.

Under Line of Effort 1 (LOE 1) "Deliberate Reoccurring Programs," we were honored to spend seven days executing our 2nd Annual Recon Wounded Teammate & Family Retreat in Whitefish, Montana. This event brought together our wounded teammates, their families and men who they served with for a week of outdoor land and aquatic activities meant to provide a respite and a moment of solace for our teammates and their families.

A special "thank you" to two of our Foundation Board Members and extended family — Bonnie Mcerlane (MRF fundraising lead) and Andy Hatcher (2nd Recon Bn. & MRF Wounded Teammate outreach lead) — for leading the planning for this incredible event.

During the month of September, we selected five (5) Recon-owned business to participate in our 3rd Recon Owned Business Grant program. This program allows the MRF to infuse funds into Recon owned small businesses, highlights each business to our community and our supporters and provides their goods and services to the active duty operating force.

Under Line of Effort 2 (LOE 2) "Emergency Support," we executed numerous discreet missions providing emergency support to teammates and their families, to include the family of Jeff Atad (former A Co 3rd Recon Bn in the mid-1990s and then 3rd Special Forces Group in Afghanistan) following his sudden death.

Under Line of Effort 3 (LOE 3) "Historic Preservation," we worked with the Veterans Project to develop and print a publication to memorialize the life and legacy of Major James Capers, USMC Ret., and we provided funds to restore the entrance to the headquarters of 2nd Reconnaissance Battalion.

We will continue to strive to live by the Reconnaissance Creed and to take care of our

own.

If you would like to get involved, apply your personal time and effort, provide goods

and services or provide a monetary donation to the MRF, I give you my personal assurance that any support provided will be applied directly and completely to the Foundations mission, Lines of Effort and associated programs.

Calendar year 2022 events and programs are already in planning. We will execute our reoccurring programs for our Recon Gold Star families to include our Annual Gold Star Family retreat at Camp Pendleton, Calif., and Hawaii (28 April – 7 May 2022) and our Gold Star Children's Summer Camp at Echo Hill Ranch Texas (June 2022), as well as our Annual Wounded Recon & Family Retreat (October 2022), location is still TBD.

We will continue to provide financial support to the Recon Training Company (RTC) Annual Recon Challenge (29 April 2022), to include providing the 1st, 2nd & 3rd Place Team awards, providing the food at the RTC school house on the day of the event and the Warrior Night (1 May).

In May 2022, we will execute our next set of semi-annual, Recon small owned business grant program, which we will cover later in this newsletter. We plan to run multiple fundraising events such as the Black Diamond Crucible, the Eha Koa annual golf tournament and the SALT American BBQ concert.

These events and other fundraising efforts are absolutely critical towards our ability to support the Reconnaissance Community, family members and units. YOUR SUPPORT MATTERS! All of the support outlined in our newsletter is your support in action. Thank you all for being great teammates!

I am personally always available to answer any questions regarding the Foundation, so please feel free to reach out.

Always by your side. Always by your side.

Jose "Pep" Tablada III

President

Marine Reconnaissance Foundation

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**"Honoring
Our
Nation's
Finest and
Supporting
Their
Families at
Every Step"**

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LINES OF EFFORT 2: Deliberate Programs

Wounded Teammates Gather at 2021 Retreat in Montana

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Hungry Horse Reservoir on off-road vehicles, rode the rapids down the Flathead River, hacked out on quarter horses on the trails around Glacier National Park and sped across the clear blue water of Whitefish Lake.

But the most healing took place after big family meals, and the shenanigans around the campfires at night. The Marines took time to reconnect with brothers old and new. The topics spanned as many as the years combined that gathered. They laughed and cried and shared memories of one another and their fallen brothers. The smiles beamed across the warm glow as they told stories of days past, shared new stories, celebrated their accomplishments, and made new memories lakeside. “The retreat in Whitefish was literally and figuratively a breath of fresh air,” stated Sam Schoenheit.

One family shared their appreciation: “As I reflect upon our experience this past summer with the Recon Foundation, the impact is hard to put into words. There is no other place I have witnessed a group of gentlemen be able to connect with complete strangers as though they were brothers. That is, of course, the idea behind the Recon brotherhood. It was incredible to watch everyone open up and share their experiences and stories over the week. Some stories my husband had never shared before. It was truly an honor to be surrounded by such amazing and influential people.

“The welcome our family experienced was incredible. Our families connected and felt as though we had been lifelong friends. These friendships are as vital as our children navigate the world in search for others with similar values. The group



activities such as whitewater rafting, tubing, horseback riding and ATV through Glacier National Park are things our family will never forget. We are grateful and beyond blessed to have had the opportunity to connect with the gracious group at the Reconnaissance Foundation.”

This retreat was designed with one thing in mind: To bring our wounded teammates and their families together, to give them a safe space free of obligation, to heal, and to have fun while reconnecting with their brothers.

Jason Morrison’s words ring true: “Being surrounded by this kind of brotherhood again, after so many years, was so refreshing, it was inspiring. It was a truly amazing experience, and one I will never forget.”

If you would like to contribute to the Wounded Teammates Retreat for 2022, please visit our website at www.reconfoundation.org. Your donations make all the difference in the world!



LINES OF EFFORT 1

Emergency Support: Family of Fallen Teammate Jeff Atad

We suddenly lost our brother and teammate Jeff Atad on 13 September 2021.

Jeff served in 1st Platoon A Co. 3rd Recon Bn in the 1990's before leaving military service. He returned to service following September 11th, 2001, serving mostly in 3rd Special Forces Group with multiple combat tours in Afghanistan.

In support of Jeff's widow, children and their family, the MRF established coordination with the Special Forces Association, the Green Beret Foundation, and his teammates from Alpha Co. and 3rd Group in order to provide financial coverage for the funeral services and financial/legal assistance over the next six months.

As MRF Board members attended Jeff's funeral services to support the Atad family, it was great to see teammates from far and wide show up to demonstrate support and lend a hand.

That is what brotherhood is all about. This case is one of many emergency support cases your Reconnaissance Foundation has worked in the last six months and is an example of the work we do with your support!



We are committed to supporting Reconnaissance Marines & Special Amphibious Reconnaissance Corpsmen — past & present — and their families.

Help support our programs and donate today!



LINES OF EFFORT 3

Historical Preservation: 2nd Recon Battalion Memorial Landscape Restoration

The MRF teamed up with senior leaders from 2nd Recon Battalion to support planning and provide funding for the restoration of the Battalion Memorial (at right), located at the entrance of the unit headquarters at Camp Lejeune, N.C.

The project was completed in July 2021 and was overseen by the Battalion Operations Chief Master Gunnery Sergeant Kevin Dale.

The MRF hopes that the renovation will highlight the memory of our fallen teammates and instill the meaning of the Recon Creed stanza:

"Forever shall I strive to maintain the reputation of those who have gone before me..."



TREASURER'S NOTES

The Foundation's finances are solid. This is something everyone wants to hear and what every non-profit wants to report. Our money is held in three different accounts.

Why three? Fundamental investing — for businesses, families or individuals — recommends having three ac-

counts one each for Emergency, Short-term, and Wealth.

It's prudent to have Emergency savings in a money market/income fund. The money is liquid and gets a better rate of return than a bank savings account.

Short-term accounts use Balanced mutual funds for growth and income. These funds nominally earn 9%. Some funds do better. Generally this account is for short term purchases, or goals, like a house, car, etc.

Wealth accounts (for families) generally use Growth funds, but these funds are put into individual retirement accounts (IRAs). Other Wealth accounts (owners/employees) are: 401(k), 403(b), 457(b), SEPs, SIMPLEs, etc.

Tax-deferred growth is the best way to fundamentally invest retirement money.

My approach with the Foundation's finances is fundamental, using those three different accounts, but since it is an entity and not a family or a "for-profit" business, the accounts needed be more conservative.

A non-profit organization cannot invest money in an IRA, however, alt-



hough the money won't grow tax-deferred, our managed account has more unique features (active management) for growth than a retail mutual fund portfolio, so it acts both as a Short-term and Wealth account for the Foundation.

We are now prepared for anything in the future. As I said in the beginning...Solid.

Feel free to contact me anytime for further information at 619.356.8541.

Swift! Silent! Deadly!

Marty Williams

Treasurer

Marine Reconnaissance Foundation

MARINE RECONNAISSANCE FOUNDATION

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LINES OF EFFORT 1:

Reoccurring Support: Semi-Annual Recon-Owned Small Business Grants Program

Every six months, the MRF selects six Recon Small Owned Businesses in order to support their growth and create awareness regarding each companies' goods and services.

Each Recon owned business receives a grant of \$2,500, and in return donates good/services back to the MRF which are then sent directly to each of the Reconnaissance Units (active & reserve) and/or the school houses (RTC & MCD) and each Expeditionary Operations Training Group's Special Missions Branch (EOTG SMB). The result is an infusion of funds into the small owned business, the small business being highlighted and their goods provided to our teammates in the Fleet.

One additional highlight from this

round of business grants was the subsequent donation of ~80 turkey dinners to the Montana Veterans Meat Locker by our teammate Robin Whalen (Whalen's Meat Packing) on behalf of his business and the MRF. Robin and Jennifer's generosity will ensure that many fellow veterans and their families in need will have a Thank-giving dinner this year... always by your side!

In September 2021, the following Recon-owned businesses were selected:
 Dirt Naps Lumber Co.
 Pale Horse Concepts



Whalen Meat Packing LLC
 Uncommon Valor
 American Muscle Apparel
 Jason Morrison "Perfect Fucking Life"

VICE PRESIDENT'S CORNER



We are looking forward to another great year at ECHO HILL RANCH to support the kids of our fallen brothers and their families.

Children across the armed services.

We are excited to announce the 2022 dates, and I look forward to having returning campers and many new ones to our camps this year.

The MRF will be onsite for the June 14-23 camp session at Echo Hill Ranch, and we are actively seeking both volunteers and kids to attend the camp this year.

If you are interested in participating, please reach out to me so I can start working the details and provide registration information for volunteers and camp attendees. Kids can attend either or both of the ranch's camp session, but the goal remains have all our

MRF kids attend the same camp session together.

The MRF team will also be hosting a camp clean-up and maintenance event this winter to help get the camp ready for next year. I will be posting more about dates and activities as soon as I confirm them!

"Step one show up, everything after that is history."

Chris May
 MRF VP
 817-501-5931
 brotherrecon@gmail.com

2021 was appropriately named the "Trailblazers" Camp because it was the first time the camp has been open in the last eight years and the first time serving the Gold Star population. The effort to reopen the camp took two years of work and countless hours of dedicated volunteer service from Echo Hill alumni, veterans, and active-duty servicemen and women.

I cannot say enough about the Friedman Family and many supporters, prior campers, counselors, and foundations who pulled together to make this reinvented Camp a reality and one that will provide long-lasting impact for our Gold Star Children. The camp hosted two sessions last year and provided lifelong memories for over 60 Gold Star



**GOLD STAR CAMP
 SUMMER 2022**

- June 10-13 — Orientation and Volunteer Training**
- June 14-23 — Gold Star Camp Session I**
- June 24-June 26 — Intersession I**
- June 27-July 6 — Gold Star Camp Session II ***

* Session II includes the July 4 weekend. If volunteers want to spend the holiday with their families, they can leave camp a bit early.

Note: Summer 2022 ranchers will be allowed to register for both sessions.

GOLD STAR FAMILIES: With MRF Support, Families of the Fallen Are Never Alone

This is the road less traveled.

Every Gold Star family is on a path none of us ever wanted to travel.

Days like Veteran’s Day, Memorial Day, bring back memories – of the days when our loved ones were serving. The days when they were deployed – the days when we lived on a tight rope of hope that they’d come home to us. On those special days we thought of our own loved ones while we thought of those who served and were part of the history of our country. Now, we think about our loved ones who gave their lives, and are part of the history of our country.

We know the difference between the two special days, and along with the honor, there is heartache. This Veteran’s Day we honor American’s veterans for their love of country, their willingness to serve and sacrifice. All gave some, some gave all. As Gold Star families, our loved ones gave all. Some of us have loved ones serving now, as well. They are giving, sacrificing every day, for freedom. We stand together with pride, and sorrow, as we remember our loved ones serving, and those who gave the ultimate sacrifice.

This time of year also brings holidays

that many celebrate. The holidays bring memories of happier days with our loved ones. Some families haven’t celebrated holidays since their loved one’s passed. Others celebrate with family and friends, but there is always that emptiness, that empty chair where that special someone should be sitting.

These special days can be difficult, and at times, overwhelming for us. Even if we are with people who care, friends, family, there can be moments where we may feel alone, and may be overcome with sorrow.

It is at such times, that we need community. We need to know we can turn to someone who understands, someone who will be there for us, to listen, to help us through. Sometimes, it’s just a listening ear, an understanding heart that will help lift us up.

As a member of the Recon Founda-



tion team, I know we want our Recon families to recognize that they are important, that they are not alone.

As a Recon Gold Star mom, I am glad to be able to reach out to our Gold Star families. To be able to listen and understand, just to let someone know, he/she is not alone, is important.

When I started on this road, it was another Recon mom who reached out to me, and that made all the difference. Our sons knew each other. They were part of the elite (I know they didn’t look at themselves that way) community of Reconnaissance Marines. There are few can call themselves by that name.

I know how important, how meaningful it is to be in contact with a member of the Recon family during the most tragic days of a family’s life. But, it is just as important to know they are not ever forgotten, that they will never walk alone.

We are there for our families any time of the day or night. They may call, text. I know we will get back with them.

They are important.

We are family.

We are Recon.

We walk together.

Always beside you.

Diane Homm

MRF Gold Star Mother



SARC CORNER:

Special Amphibious Recon Corpsman Lends Helping Hand Supporting MRF Event

In keeping with the proud tradition of Marine Reconnaissance, the MRF team is always looking for ways to get better. In this case, we're finding ways to serve better.

As part of an initiative to ensure participants in MRF events are safe, we have added Special Amphibious Reconnaissance Corpsman to support our events. It's also another opportunity to further strengthen ties among our Marine Recon and Navy SARC brothers.

The first event to see how this integration would go was the 2nd Annual Recon Wounded Teammate & Family Retreat held in Whitefish, Montana, this past summer. As expected, it was a great success.

Christian Aranha was the first SARC to participate as a SARC and teammate in this capacity. Christian was born in California and lived in Brazil until he was 10. After moving to Orlando, Fla., he developed a desire to join the Navy and serve as a SARC. After completing the training pipeline, Christian was assigned to 2nd Reconnaissance Battalion at Camp Lejeune, N.C.

In joining MRF at the retreat in Montana, Christian (at right) found a well-organized event, and he was welcomed by the team and participants.

"I was privileged to get to hang out with so many fun and unique people," Christian said of his experience meeting the veterans participating in the retreat. "Having joined myself after most of them had retired gave me a window into their time served. I'm grateful for the new

friends I made. For all that Recon Marines and their families sacrificed, it is nice to play a small, helping part in return."

If you are a current or former SARC and would like to support a future Marine Reconnaissance Foundation event, please reach out to me at jeff.sarc@gmail.com.

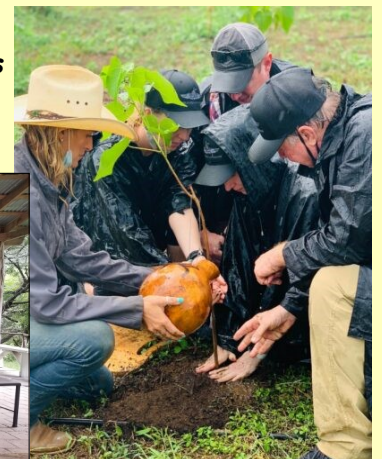


Jeff Stevens

MRF Board of Directors/SARC Representative



Please support MRF programs and donate today



MARINE RECONNAISSANCE FOUNDATION



We are supporting the Reconnaissance Community through action. We provide annual re-occurring and emergent emergency support to our teammates past and present, support the active duty & reserve operating forces and foster and perpetuate Reconnaissance history, lineage and traditions. The Marine Reconnaissance Foundation provides assistance with flights and lodging for wounded service members and their family members when needed.

HOW TO REACH US:

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Instagram: @marinereconfoundation
Facebook: Marine Reconnaissance Foundation

PLEASE DONATE VIA:

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Venmo: www.venmo.com/reconfoundation
On our web page: <https://reconfoundation.org>

MRF is a nationally-registered 501(3)c organization, Tax ID #46-3009425



"The cost of freedom is always high — and Americans have always paid it. And one path we shall never choose, and that is the path of surrender or submission."

- John F. Kennedy



SHOP AT THE MRF STORE

Brother Recon has MRF merchandise on our site at <https://www.brotherrecon.com/mrf>

Below are a few of the products we have in stock. We will continue to bring on new products and support the Foundation going forward. I can do some limited custom requests and look forward to supporting the community with this new line of products.

Website: <https://www.brotherrecon.com/>

MRF Page: <https://www.brotherrecon.com/mrf>

Email: brotherrecon@gmail.com



— **Chris May** (MGySgt Ret)

CEO & Founder
 Brother Recon LLC

