CONNAIS SANCE RECONNAIS SANCE FOUNDATION

SUMMER 2022 Vol II Issue 5

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

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MARINE RECONNAISSANCE FOUNDATION



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 1: Deliberate Support

Marine Recon Foundation Teams Up With Sound Off

Marine Reconnaissance Foundation President Jose "Pep" Tablada this summer announced a new strategic partnership with Sound Off, a Texas-based, non-profit organization to expand mental health support within the Marine Reconnaissance community.

Sound Off operates a novel mobile-application that allows Veterans, Service Members and members of the Intelligence Community to access mental health support while maintaining their anonymity — mitigating the concerns of stigmatization and professional blowback that prevents many from seeking help. As part of this partnership, MRF has recruited volunteer peer supporters associated with the Reconcommunity, volunteer clinicians, and will provide financial support to pay for anonymous clinical support.

"From 2001-2021, a twenty-year peri-

od, Marine Corps Reconnaissance men have consistently deployed into combat action locations in Iraq and Afghanistan.

Additionally, our teammates



assigned to other activities outside of traditional Reconnaissance units have and continue to deploy to dangerous locations around the globe in support of C-VEO and other operations. The last two decades of combat, deployments and family separation has taken a tremendous toll on our teammates. The Reconnaissance Foundation has partnered with SOUND OFF to provide access to non-attributional, anonymous precrisis clinician level mental health counsel-

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UPDATE FROM THE PRESIDENT

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

MRF is a nationallyregistered 501(3)c charity Tax ID #46-3009425 Aloha to our teammates and supporters! As the Reconnaissance Foundation begins the 4th Quarter of Calendar Year 2022, I wanted to provide our teammates, families and supporters an update on the last half of 2022. I am happy to report that we have been able to execute each of our Lines Of Effort successfully, time on target for Quarters 1-3 of this year. Since the last newsletter update in April 2022, we have been extremely busy supporting our teammates and their families.

Under Line of Effort 1 (LOE 1) "Deliberate Reoccurring Programs" we have finalized planning and have fully funded this year's annual Wounded Recon Teammate & Family Retreat in Destin, Florida, for 9-15 October 2022.

Under Line of Effort 2 (LOE 2) "Emergency Support," over the last four months we have executed numerous discreet missions providing emergency or emergent support to teammates and their families, to include supporting families of recently deceased teammate and establishing investment accounts for their children. We have also coordinated immediate crisis intervention actions in support of multiple teammates suffering from severe Post Traumatic Stress. These are but two examples of the discreet support provided to numerous qualified and deserving teammates and their family members in need.

Under Line of Effort 3 (LOE 3) "Historic Preservation," we established the Reconnaissance Foundation "Harbor Site" on Facebook social media that allows teammates from all generations to post up photos, short stories or historical narratives meant to help capture the incredible and storied

history of the Reconnaissance Community. We have also conducted in-depth research on significant figures, teams, battles and accomplishments of Recon-



naissance men throughout our communities storied history, and subsequently drafted numerous Reconnaissance history preservation articles, posts, written narratives accompanied by supporting photo/document evidence.

We have also worked to support and perpetuate Recon community veteran organizations, to include providing funds and services to the 2nd Force Reconnaissance Association in order to support their annual reunion, which is an event that allows senior teammates and their families the opportunity to come together in the spirit of brotherhood and kinship.

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.

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

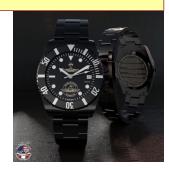
Always by your side.

Jose "Pep" Tablada III
President
Marine Reconnaissance Foundation
jose.tablada@reconfoundation.org

MRF Partners With Swiss PL Watch Company

The Reconnaissance Foundation has teamed up with our friends at Swiss PL Watch Company to create a limited Reconnaissance Foundation commemorative time piece. This watch comes in three different form factors and is handcrafted with specific design input by the customer.

These beautiful, handcrafted time pieces have gone to over 50 teammates from all generations of the Recon Community and the owner of Swiss PL (Mr. Alldaron Knewitz) has graciously donated 25% of the sale of each watch to the Reconnaissance Foundation! His generosity has provided funding/monetary support for the execution of the Reconnaissance Foundation's Annual Wounded Recon Teammate & Family Retreat in Destin, Florida, from October 9-15, 2022.



MRF Teams Up With Sound Off to Provide Mental Health Support to Community

-> Continued from page 1

ling to our active duty, retired or separated teammates. This service allows our teammates to access counseling without

divulging active-duty status, thus ensuring that no harm will come to their career, security clearance or position within their respective unit," stated Pep Tablada.

According to the VA's 2021 National Veteran Suicide Prevention Annual Report, 17 Veterans completed suicide each day. The VA estimates 60% of those who died had no Veterans Health Administration encounter of any kind in 2018 or 2019. An additional 498 service members died by suicide in 2019.

According to a RAND study, "Mental Health Stigma in the Military," between 45% and 73% of Service Members with clinically significant symptoms of PTSD, major depression and other comorbid conditions did not seek help.

Sound Off is the first and only mental health resource for

veterans and service members that allows both anonymity and repeat contact with clinicians or screened-and-trained

peers, called "Battle Buddies." All interactions between those seeking support and those offering it are contained to the app.

Sound Off assigns veterans and service members seeking support a pseudonym, which allows them to maintain their anonymity. Veterans or Service Members are then paired through the secure IT infrastructure with a network of volunteer clinicians and/or veterans ("Battle Buddies") ready to offer support.

Through the Sound Off platform, the Marine Reconnaissance Foundation's mission is to revolutionize the way the Recon community seeks and receives anonymous, mental health care.

Please visit SOUND OFF to learn more about this valuable service at Sound Off — Supporting Veterans on their Terms — on the web at: https://sound-off.com.



LOE 1: Deliberate Programs

New Program Takes Recon Teammates Out to Sea for Spearfishing



The Reconnaissance Foundation has teamed up with our brother Trey Fagan (photo, at right) by providing funding to sustain the execution of this program based out of Sneads Ferry, North Carolina.

The SPEAR IT Veterans dive fishing program allows our brothers and teammates to get out on the water and learn how to conduct open-circuit dive spearfishing. The boat, crew and gear are all provided, and our teammates just have to show up!

A huge thank you to our brother Trey for leading this effort. We are proud to support it!

Please contract Trey if you are a teammate interested in participating.



LINES OF EFFORT 3: Historic Preservation

New MRF Program Establishes Mentoring Program for Reconnaissance Marines

The Reconnaissance Foundation has established a reoccurring mentor program that enables Reconnaissance Marines with significant leadership, valorous action or those whom are related to important historic context to act as mentors to the active-duty Reconnaissance community.

The intent of this program is to provide senior Reconnaissance mentors with the ability to interact with Reconnaissance men in the Fleet Marine Force (FMF) as well as personnel in different stages of the Reconnaissance training pipeline (e.g. BRC, MCD, etc.).

Recent examples of the Reconnaissance Mentor program in action are coordinating renowned veteran Major Jim Capers as the Guest of Honor for the 2022 Recon Challenge and Army Master Sergeant Earl Plumlee (a Medal of Honor recipient) for his visit with West Coast Reconnaissance units and Recon Training Company at Camp Pendleton, California. He also served as guest speaker for the Basic Reconnaissance Course 3-22 graduating class.

As part of this mentorship effort, the Reconnaissance Foundation also coordinates General/Flag officer support to Recon Training Company's (RTC) Recon



Leaders Course (RLC) Hawaii Phase. Students in RLC are required to provide mission confirmation briefs to flag officers acting as MAGTF or SOTF Commanders in order to pressurize the class curriculum and provide the students an opportunity to brief senior level leaders.

If you are a senior Reconnaissance man who would like to participate in our mentor program, or have any recommendations on teammates that might be a good fit, please reach out and let us know.

LOE 1: Deliberate Support 2nd Force Recon Association Annual Reunion

The Marine Recon Foundation provided support to the 2nd Force Reconnaissance Company Association's annual reunion, held in May 2022.

The support helped ensure that the 2nd FRA teammates and families in attendance had support elements such as transportation and goods for the week's planned events.

Annual Wounded Teammate & Family Retreat in Oct.

The Reconnaissance Foundation will be executing our wounded teammate and family retreat from October 9-15, 2022, in Destin, Florida.

The purpose of this retreat is to provide our teammates who suffer from physical, mental or spiritual wounds a venue to bring their families together in order to rebuild and/or reinforce family bonds and provide them with an opportunity for bonding with other Recon families in similar circumstances.

During the retreat, we will have daily activities to include boat operations, a visit to Marine Corps Combat Dive School and deep-sea fishing.

A huge "Thank you" to our friends Alldaron Knewitz at Swiss PL Watches, our teammate Andy "Tuna" Koltunowicz (former 2nd Recon Battalion and lead for MRF Sporting Clays event held in July) and our teammate Jimmy Perkins (former A Co., 3rd Recon Bn and owner of Crab Island Jimmy's Charters) for all your support!

Your generosity and work will provide funding and services for this entire retreat!

MRF Welcomes New Board Members and Advisors

We are proud to introduce David Poore, the new Foundation Secretary, Master Sergeant Todd Smalenberg as a new (returning) member of the Reconnaissance Foundation's Board of Directors and Master Gunnery Sergeant Chad Ramsey (Ret.), Colonel George Bristol (Ret.) and Andy Ruberg as three new Advisors to the Reconnaissance Foundation Board!

David (right, top) served as a member of 4th Force Reconnaissance Company, was commissioned as a JAG Officer and then opened a private law practice.

Todd served for over two decades in Recon units on both the East and West Coast, to include 2nd Force Recon Co. and 1st Recon Battalion and in the subsequent creation of the initial Marine Special Operations Battalions (MSOB) of Marine Corps Special Operations Command (MARSOC). Notably, Todd led a team that conducted a High Altitude, High Opening (HAHO) jump into Iraq on July 23, 2004, with a mission to insert clandestinely into enemy territory and eliminate enemy IED makers and emplacement teams. This was the first Marine Corps employment of the HAHO capability during the Iraq War.

Chad served for 29 years, serving in Recon units on both the East and West Coast to include 2nd Force Recon Co. and 1st Recon Bn.He is also a "plank oner" of Very Shallow Water Mine Counter Measures (VSW MCM), a joint Recon, SEAL and Navy EOD unit tasked with locating and destroying enemy mines in the VSW zone using combat divers, military marine mammals and unmanned capabilities. As a Master Sergeant he served as Recon Occupational Field Sponsor and Marine Corps Combat Diving Advocate.

George is a Mustang Recon Marine with a 30-year career that includes 18 years overseas and 62 combined months in combat and contingency operations. During his career, he Commanded 3rd Recon Battalion, I MEF Headquarters Group and Joint Special Operations Task Force, Trans Sahara (Africa). He is also responsible for the development and implementation of the United States Marine Corps Martial Arts Program (MCMAP), which remains in use today.

Andy served with E Co., 4th Recon Bn. and C Co., 3rd Recon Bn., then joined the FBI as a supervisory Special Agent deploying to the Middle East both in and out of uniform.







VICE PRESIDENT'S CORNER



At Echo Hill Ranch, we seek to foster a community and connection among children and families who have had similar

life experiences and are taking similar life journeys. Echo Hill Ranch is a camp 18 miles southwest of Kerrville, Texas.

Our mission is to provide a safe, fun, relaxing, and empowering professional summer camp experience for the children of Gold Star families, im-

mediate family members of a fallen service member who died while serving in a time of conflict, or those of first responders.



Maintenance of the camp over the winter and spring sponsored by The MRF with a \$10,000 donation allowed the much-needed maintenance and camp improvements to get the camp ready for this years Gold Star kids.

I can't thank my father and the many volunteers that came out continually over several months to make sure our kids have the best environment possible to grow and make new lifelong friends. 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 this year and provided lifelong memories for over 100 Gold Star Children across the armed services.

We had two boys from a Marine Reconnaissance Foundation family attend the Camp this summer, and both truly enjoyed the experience. One boy was a returning camper and built his skills as a counselor in training, and a younger boy enjoyed it so much that he stayed for both of the summer sessions. Echo Hill is an incredible partner and we look forward to next year's Camp.

We will be announcing the 2023 Camp dates in our next newsletter, so please start reaching out if you are interested in having someone you know attend. You can expect the dates for the 2023 Camp to be held sometime from June 10 to July 6, 2023, covering both sessions.

Chris May MRF VP

817-501-5931 brother recon@gmail.com

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



Kids attending the 2021 Recon Gold Star Children's summer camp (above) at Echo Hill Ranch joined others for 10 days of fun at the sprawling Texas property.

MARINE RECONNAISSANCE FOUNDATION

Jose Tablada III, President Chris May, Vice President Marty Williams, Treasurer

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Robin Ferscke
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George Bristol
Chad Ramsey

Help us support Recon and SARC teammates and their families in need.

Please consider a donation today!

LINES OF EFFORT 3: Historic Preservation

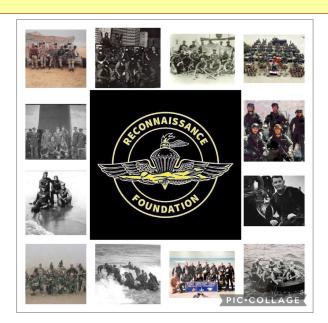
Got a Story to Share? Check Out Our Newest Social Media Hub — "Harbor Site"

The Reconnaissance Foundation's "Harbor Site" on Facebook social media has been established to allow teammates from all generations to post photos, short stories or historical narratives meant to help capture the incredible and storied history of the Reconnaissance Community.

The primary moderator of the Harbor Site will be Colonel George Bristol, one of our newest Advisors to the MRF Board.

In the first week of existence, the Harbor Site has included incredible history of generations of Recon men from the 1950s until present day.

If you are interested in contributing or simply reading about this invaluable Recon History, please visit the Harbor Site on Facebook.



OUT ON THE HUNT: MRF Helped Sponsor Big Country Veterans Hog Heli-Hunt

This year, the MRF was a Recon Level sponsor for the Big Country Veterans' 8th Annual Heli Hog Hunt held in Truscott, Texas, and which has provided support to many Recon Marines and Special Amphibious Reconnaissance Corpsmen (SARC) who attended this year, as in years' past.

I attended the 2021 Hog Hunt and truly enjoyed the event. I spent time with fellow brothers who I hadn't seen in years, and it was the same again this year. We had many veterans from our wide, Recon community at the event from multiple eras, to include Medal of Honor recipient Earl Plumlee, a U.S. Army Master Sergeant (photo at left) who is still serving today.

This has become a great partnership for the MRF and provides an opportunity for our community to expand our impact to our veterans and the reconnaissance community.



Here's some details and what you can expect of the event.

The purpose and passion of Big Country Veterans ("BCV") is to honor and support those who have sacrificed so much for our nation's freedoms.

It is our mission to promote awareness of these sacrifices and

bring communities together to foster healing environments designed to help veterans, and their families, conquer life after combat.

As a sponsor, you'll be paired with one of our nation's finest as you fly over 100,000+ acres of "Big Country" Texas searching for the biggest and wildest hogs you can find.

Veterans and sponsors will also be able to:

- ◆Shoot numerous weapons at the gun range
- ◆ Participate in axe throwing competitions
 - Attend authentic ranch tours
- ◆Be able to relax and take in the sounds of nature

For more information about BCV, please check out their website: https://www.bigcountryveterans.org/events.

— Chris May

MRF Effort Provides Support To UKR Forces In Honor Of Nick Nikonov

The Reconnaissance Foundation in coordination with teammate Mike Hudson (Lt. Col., Ret.) raised over \$9,000 to purchase over 100 Individual First Aid-Kit's (IFAK) for Ukrainian Forces in active combat locations.

This fundraising effort was in memory of Lt. Col. Nick Nikonov, a UKR Maritime Special Operations Officer who was Killed In Action on March 12, 2022.

Nick was a graduate of the United States Marine Corps Basic Reconnaissance Course (BRC) and had conducted combined operations with Recon Marines and Sailors during the Marine Corps Black Sea Rotational Force. He is considered a Recon Teammate who had the respect and admiration of the Reconnaissance Community.

He will not be forgotten.



TREASURER'S NOTES

Who would like to retire (at age 67) with at least \$1 million? Who would like to live off of the interest of that million dollars while having the million dollars keep growing?

Everyone, right? But you will NEVER end up with the million dollars (or more) by accident. You have to plan it. In order to achieve this, one has to know the "Rules of the Game" — the Money Game.

One of these rules is called "The Rule of 72."

It's simple. Whatever interest rate you're getting on your investment (3%, 6%, 9%, etc.), that's the number you divide into the number 72. The answer is the number in years it takes for your money to double.

Example: You are age 20 and have \$10,000 in a bank CD (certificate of deposit) earning 3%. The math: 72 divided by 3 = 24. At a 3% rate of return, it will take 24 years for your money to double to \$20,000, and another 24 years to double again to \$40,000. So, at 3%, there's only two doubling periods before you would reach retirement age.

To get MORE doubling periods much sooner — and for your money to grow faster — you need a higher interest rate of return.

Example: You have the same \$10,000, same target retirement age (67), but you have it in an average mutual fund earning 9%. The math: 72 divided by 9 = 8. Now, your \$10,000 is doubling every 8 years. Between ages 20 and 68, you'll have six doubling periods. By 68, you will have \$640,000.

So the higher the interest rate, the more doubling periods. Based on your current age, how many doubling periods do YOU have left?

The MRF has been there for many families in need, providing them with financial support whenever there's a family emergency or tragedy. But our funds are finite, and at times the money runs out. Since I've been with the Foundation, we are now creating investment accounts for the children of fallen Recon brothers. These investments are called UTMA, Uniform Transfer to Minors Act. It allows parent/grandparents (custodians) to start investments for their children (any age), and when the child becomes an adult (most states at age 18), the custodian can sign over the account to the now-adult.

Example: Child receives \$2,500 from MRF. We set up an UTMA with a mutual fund averaging 9%. If young enough, this money can grow until the child is 67 years old. Based on 9%, the money would grow to \$1,016,165 at age 67. If the custodian wants to add \$100/month and the Minor/Adult continues the monthly contribution throughout their life, by age 67 the amount is \$8,900,465.

The Foundation is willing to help any family understand and execute this very doable plan.

Marty Williams
MRF Treasurer

Help us support Recon and SARC teammates and honor their Recon service, legacy and sacrifice. Please consider donating today.



SARC CORNER:

A Tribute to Special Amphibious Recon Corpsman Dan Brown

The SARC Corner for this quarter is dedicated to SARC Dan Brown.

Dan was born in Clinton, Arkansas, on July 7, 1985, to Scott and Tanya Brown. He graduated from Conway High School in 2004 as a United States Naval Sea Cadet. where he achieved the rank of Chief Petty Officer, a rank limited to one cadet per unit. He enlisted in the Navy immediately after high school. As his first assignment, Dan was a member of the U.S. Navy Honor Guard as a casket bearer at Arlington National Cemetery. After becoming a Corpsman, Dan was accepted in the Special Am-Reconnaissance phibious Corpsman (SARC) pipeline.

Dan completed deployments to Afghanistan with 1st Reconnaissance Battalion and 1st Raider Battalion. A traumatic brain injury (TBI) incurred in combat led to Dan's medical discharge in February 2015.

This recollection, from one of Dan's teammates:

Dan never picked up a book and studied, yet he ALWAYS knew what to do and made straight A's. We admired him for his intelligence.

Dan barely worked out, yet was an unstoppable beast that became our strength. We admired him for his persistence.

He never showed weakness or focused on his pain, he'd focus on yours and try to ease it. We admired him for his heart.

He never complained, even under "Surf Torture" he'd laugh it off and made sure everyone else was too. We admired him for his selflessness.

Dan valued his friends and family more than anything and regularly sacrificed for them. He was the anchor to those around him, and I for one would not be alive if he wasn't in my life.

Thank you, Dan, so much for being an example for me, loving me through your character and teaching me so many lessons that I still hold today. I wish I could hug you one last time. I love you brother.

Never below you Never above you Always besides you

As a result of Dan's TBI, he would strug-



gle with his injuries, and his life ended too soon. He left behind his wife Kristina; parents Scott and Tanya; brothers Samuel, Andrew and Luke; and his sister Molly; a large, extended family and a multitude of Recon/Raider teammates.

Dan was a loved and respected member of the Marine Reconnaissance and MARSOC Teams who will never be forgotten.

The Marine Reconnaissance Foundation, along with our counterparts across SOF, encourage our brothers and sisters to call a friend, seek help, find your worth. If you are struggling with depression or suicide,

please reach out to a teammate or a resource like the suicide hotline or the Sound Off Foundation.

Prayerfully,

Jefe

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 "El Jefe" Stevens MRF Board of Directors SARC Representative



MARINE RECONNAISSANCE FOUNDATION

We are supporting the Reconnaissance Community through action. We provide annual reoccurring 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:

By mail: Marine Reconnaissance Foundation, 91-1000 Hoomanao St., Ewa Beach, HI 96706

Phone: 808.690.7025

Email: info@reconfoundation.org 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

Here are a few of the products we have in stock. We will continue to bring on new products and support the Foundation going forward, so please check the website for the latest. 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/

Email: brotherrecon@gmail.com



— Chris May (MGySgt Ret)

> CEO & Founder Brother Recon LLC



