



# THE FRAG

## 2D Recon Battalion Association Newsletter Fall 2024

Greetings Marines, Corpsmen, and Recon Families,

I hope this finds all of you doing well. It's hard to believe that this year is almost over. Our vice president, Brian Broadhurst, told me that if I didn't get this out soon it would be the "Holidays" newsletter instead of the Fall FRAG!

Unfortunately, we have lost two of our own in the past few months—Lou Perullo, one of the plank holders and SgtMaj (Ret.) Jorge Sosa. Please see the *In Memoriam* section.

Pablo and Stacey Arroyo and Amy and I attended the battalion's Birthday Ball in Wilmington, NC. I have been dozens of balls, but I honestly believe that it was the best I've ever attended. After the ball, LtCol. Doykos, the battalion commander, grabbed me and said that he planned to be at the reunion dinner next summer along with the incoming commander. He said he would do this to stress to the new CO the importance of maintaining the bond between 2d Recon Battalion and our Association.

In this edition of the FRAG, I review the book *Job/Security*, which features our own Pablo Arroyo/Mr. X. Here's wishing all of you a Merry Christmas, Happy Hannukah, and a great New Year!

Wayne Dillon

President

## **Contents**

- I. Editor's Letter
- II. In Memoriam: Lou Perullo and Sgt. Major Jorge Sosa
- III. Taking Care of Our Own: The Arsanblas Family
- IV. Beirut Ceremony
- V. Book Review: Job/Security with Pablo Arroyo
- VI. All in the Family: Cpl. Patrick Leathers
- VII. Reunion 2025
- VIII. Supporting our Community
- IX. Membership

## In Memoriam



**Louis Perullo**

Earlier this year, we lost one of our beloved plank holders, Lou Perullo. Lou was with the battalion during its formation in 1958. He had been battling cancer for quite some time, but being the tough Recon Marine he was, he was able to attend this year's reunion, accompanied by his son, Greg, also a former Marine. Lou was a great friend of Vic Zwolak. He will be sorely missed. Semper Fi, Lou. **(cont'd.)**

## **In Memoriam (cont'd.)**



**SgtMaj. Jorge Sosa (Ret.)**

Sergeant Major Jorge F. Sosa, age 68, of Ellijay, Georgia, passed away on Thursday, November 28th, 2024 at his residence.

He was born on August 13th, 1956 in Bogota, Colombia to the late Jorge Enrique Sosa Salazar and the late Consuelo Mutis Gaitan. In addition to his parents, he is preceded in death by his stepdaughter, Ashley Merriott.

Sergeant Major Sosa was a leader to many, a father to his family, and a loving husband. He served with honor and distinction for 28 and a half years, retiring in June 2006. Throughout his remarkable military career, he dedicated several years to Force Reconnaissance, Infantry, and Security Forces, embodying the highest standards of service and commitment. He deeply loved his wife, Susie, friends, and his Marines, leaving behind a legacy of leadership, devotion, and unwavering dedication to those he served and loved.

## Taking Care of Our Own



### **Sgt. Colin Arsanblas, Margot, and Gracen**

In March of this year as reported in the Spring FRAG, we lost Sgt. Arsanblas of C Company during a night time HALO (high altitude, low opening) parachute insert during a MEU (Marine Expeditionary Unit) exercise in eastern North Carolina. He and his wife, Gracen, had been married just a month when tragedy struck. However, out of this loss sprang new life, a lovely little girl named Margot, born in November. Thanks to your generosity, the Association was able to financially assist Gracen during her time of need.



## Remember the Fallen: Beirut 41st Anniversary



2d Reconnaissance Battalion held a special ceremony at sunrise on 23 October to honor the seventeen fallen members of the Battalion on the 41st Anniversary of their sacrifice in the Beirut bombing. As each name was called by the battalion chaplain, sixteen Reconnaissance Marines and one Navy Corpsman stepped forward holding one of the seventeen Paddles bearing the names of each of the fallen. The ceremony concluded with a rifle salute, Taps, and a speech from the Battalion Commander.

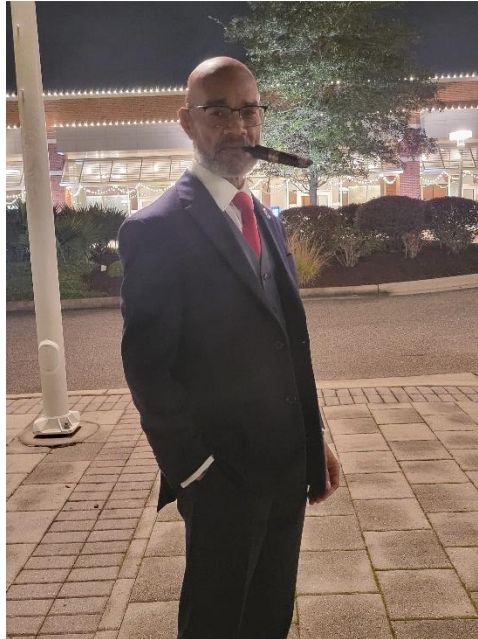
**The attack:** At 0622 on October 23, 1983, a suicide bomber from the terrorist group Hezbollah drove a truck loaded with over 2,000 pounds of explosives through the front gate of the Beirut International Airport and into a building which housed hundreds of Marines. The explosion collapsed the four-story building, killing 241 U.S. servicemembers serving in Lebanon on a dangerous peacekeeping mission. 2d Recon's Charlie Co., 3rd Platoon, lost sixteen Recon Marines and their U.S. Navy Corpsman in this terrible attack.

*Editor's note:* Three of the survivors, Burnie Matthews (secretary), Pablo Arroyo (chaplain), and Phil Amrhein are active members of the Association.

## Book Review: *Job/Security*

By Danny Goodwin and Edward Schwarzschild

The authors describe *Job/Security* as a “composite portrait of the expanding American security industry.” This book interviews persons with a wide range of perspectives, featuring men and women of Homeland Security, Border Patrol, the Secret Service, and emergency management, among others.



One of our own, Pablo Arroyo, is prominently featured, along with his lovely wife, Stacey. He describes his rough childhood in Puerto Rico and then in the Bronx with his single mother and three siblings, having been abandoned by their father and the struggles just to survive—at one time living on a park bench in the fall and winter.

Pablo was grievously wounded during the Beirut bombing, described earlier in this edition. Along with Burnie Matthews, Phil Amrhein, and three others, he was evacuated to a U.S Army hospital in Germany. After several months in Germany, he was transferred back to Camp Lejeune and the Naval Hospital there. Enduring weeks of rehabilitation and physical therapy, he was offered a medical discharge. Pablo told them “I came here to fight, not to take a medical discharge and do nothing.”

He went on to a stellar career, serving 20 years with the Connecticut State Police as a diver, bomb detection expert, and as head of the bomb squad. After retiring, he was recruited by the Department of Homeland Security, where he continued to serve. He is currently the Chief Operating Officer for a security firm.

He and Stacey are very active in the Association. Pablo serves as our chaplain. He and Stacey actively compete in Brazilian jiu-jitsu. She is a two-time champion and he is a world champion.

*Job/Security* is published by the MIT Press. It can be found on Amazon.com or wherever fine books are sold.

## All in the Family



**Cpl. Patrick Leathers**

Patrick is the son of Dave and Jeanette Leathers. Dave has been serving as our treasurer ever since the Association was formed. Some of you will remember Patrick coming to the reunions when he was a teenager, sitting by the pool and listening to our stories. Obviously, some of this rubbed off on him—Patrick went to college for a bit, but then I remember him saying that he wasn't getting much out of college, and was thinking of joining. Of course, what reaction could he expect from our crew? Next thing we heard he was headed for Parris Island, and despite a COVID 19 delay, completed recruit training and the School of Infantry, then headed out to fulfill his Recon Guarantee Contract. (Note: The contract only guarantees to right to try for Recon. Applicants must successfully complete the Amphibious Reconnaissance Course.)

Patrick completed ARC, Airborne, HALO, Combat Diver, Breacher, SERE and the FBI Surveillance Schools before checking into the battalion. The Operations Chief at the time, the famous MGySgt. Dale, required that all the "boots" shave their heads (so they could look like him?) This timing happened to coincide with our 2022 reunion, where Patrick and his teammates got to load magazines for us and clean the weapons we dirtied up! Patrick recently returned from a deployment with the 24<sup>th</sup> MEU. He will reach the four-year mark in January, and is scheduled to be promoted to sergeant on 1 February.

All joking aside, it was great to see this fine young man. We are very proud of him and of Dave and Jeanette for raising such a high achiever.

PS: Dave counselled him on that moustache!



---

## Reunion 2025

---



Our reunions just get bigger and better all the time! Plan now for the upcoming reunion, which will be held 26-29 June 2025. We have a group rate of \$159.00 per night, which must be reserved before 26 May.

The general plan is to check in to the Hampton Inn Sneads Ferry, NC, on Thursday, 26 June at 1500. Friday will be our day with the battalion to burn their ammo, give awards, eat barbecue, etc. and conduct our membership meeting. Saturday is an open day for visiting the beach, base, etc. until our dinner at the Officers Club in the evening. Sunday is pack up and retrograde.

**Important Note:** There is no “menu pricing” for the reunion, meaning that members cannot pick and choose what events they pay for. All these logistics must be locked on and paid for *months in advance*.

Registration will open on the Associations website at <https://www.2dreconbn.org/> in March. Also on the website will be the link to the Marine Corps Installations East website to register for base access for those who do not have qualifying credentials, such as a retired ID card. More info to come as we get closer to the dates.

To make your reservations, call the Hampton Inn at 910-327-5555. Don't delay!

# Supporting our Community

---

## Scholarships

Two scholarships are available to Association members and their dependents. The Larry Ashton Memorial Scholarship, administered by the Ashton family, is dedicated to supporting those who are studying to work as health professionals. The Association administers a general scholarship. The deadline for these scholarships is 15 August. For more information, contact Wayne Dillon at [leatherneck75.wd@gmail.com](mailto:leatherneck75.wd@gmail.com).

## Community Support

The Association has recently been able to provide financial to the wife of an active duty who was Marine killed in the line of duty, as well as helping an active-duty Marine who was dealing with a child's terminal illness. Again, thank you for your generous support. Every dollar given goes to supporting our charitable causes and operating expenses, such as our website. None of the officers take a single penny in salaries or expenses.

# Membership

---



Jerry Newland is our Membership Chairman. Connect with Jerry with any questions or issues you may have.

Email: [gwn8654@gmail.com](mailto:gwn8654@gmail.com)

Mail: 2<sup>nd</sup> Recon Association  
Jerry Newland  
5231 Hammock Circle  
St. Cloud, FL 34771