

**CONSTITUTION AND BY-LAWS  
OF THE  
3<sup>RD</sup> RECON ASSOCIATION**

9<sup>th</sup> Edition,  
as amended 26 Sep 2012

**ARTICLE I – OBJECTIVES**

Section 1. General. The objectives of the Association are as follows:

- To promote renewed fellowship of all Marines and Navy personnel who are combat veterans of the 3rd Reconnaissance Battalion;
- To locate and account for all who so served;
- To preserve the memory of those who so served and are now deceased, either while with the 3rd Reconnaissance Battalion, or since;
- To promote preservation of an accurate historical account of such service;
- To promote research and understanding and healing with regard to those who so served; and
- To promote artistic expression of the combat experience.

Section 2. Non-Profit.

None of the aforementioned objectives shall be construed to authorize the Association to conduct activities for monetary profit or financial gain or to attempt to influence legislation.

**ARTICLE II – MEMBERSHIP**

Section 1. Criteria.

All Marine Corps and Navy personnel who have been accredited with service in combat while assigned to, or attached to, the 3rd Reconnaissance Battalion are eligible for Regular Membership in the Association.

Section 2. Associate Membership.

The Association shall provide for Associate Members. An Associate Membership may be granted to any parent, wife, child or sibling of any person set forth in Section 1, above, alive or deceased. Associate Membership shall be limited so that at least 90% of the general Membership remains military veterans.

Section 3. Deceased Veterans.

All who meet the qualifications for membership as specified in Section 1, above, and who died either while with the 3rd Reconnaissance Battalion or since, will be carried on the membership rolls as they become known.

#### Section 4. Dues.

All Regular Members are subject to paying dues, however, the amount shall be determined, and adjusted from time to time, by the Executive Committee. In addition, all Members are asked to make donations, within their financial means, to defray the cost of publication of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Recon Association Newsletter.

### **ARTICLE III – MEETINGS**

#### Section 1. Periodic Meetings.

There shall be Periodic Meetings of the Membership for the election of Officers and such other business which shall be held and conducted at least once during every 5 year period commencing from the year 1990. All Members present shall be eligible to vote on any matter. Meetings may be called by the President or by written petition of two-thirds of the Members. In order to conduct business, there shall be a quorum of no less than ten Members.

#### Section 2. Committees.

Committees shall be appointed by the President from time to time, and may include the following: Audit of the Treasurer's Report; Nominations; Convention; Newsletter.

#### Section 3. Subordinate Associations.

Subordinate Associations may be formed under the umbrella of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Recon Association that are comprised of Members that served with an individual 3<sup>rd</sup> Recon Battalion Company, specific time period or event, ie; Alpha Recon Association, Bravo Recon Association, Khe Sanh Recon Association, etc. Subordinate Associations will have their own By-Laws and Officers and may seek assistance from the 3<sup>rd</sup> Recon Association in developing and sponsoring reunions.

#### Section 4 Approval of Subordinate Associations.

The 3<sup>rd</sup> Recon Association will have the overall right of approval on the name and mission, if any, of all Associations formed under its fiscal umbrella.

#### Section 5. . Ladies Auxiliary.

A Ladies Auxiliary may be formed under the umbrella of the 3rd Recon Association which is comprised of women Members and women Associate Members. The Auxiliary shall have its own By-Laws and Officers and, only for governance within the Auxiliary each Associate Member shall have the right of a vote. Such an Auxiliary may seek assistance from the 3rd Recon Association in developing and sponsoring its own activities and reunions.

## **ARTICLE IV – OFFICERS/EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

### Section 1. Executive Committee.

The Executive Committee shall consist of the President, Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer, Sergeant-at-Arms, Chaplain, Historian, Publicity/Membership Director, Service Officer and one Associate Director from each subordinate Company chosen by its Company Membership as their representative. The Executive Committee shall be the governing body between Meetings of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Recon Association. The Executive Committee shall be responsible for the general management of the Association business.

### Section 2. Election, Term of Office and Removal.

The Officers of the Association shall be elected by the general Membership for a term of about four years, which shall specifically encompass the time between the two Periodic Meetings which most closely encompass a span of four years from their election. Any vacancy in any office caused by any reason whatsoever may be filled by temporary appointment by the President with concurrence with the other Officers in writing until the next Periodic Meeting when the office shall be filled through election. Any Officer may be elected to succeed himself.

### Section 3. President.

The President shall preside over all Meetings of the Membership. He shall have charge of the affairs of the Association and shall see that all orders from the Membership are implemented. He shall execute contracts, documents, checks, bonds, or other instruments as authorized by concurrence of the President, Secretary, and Treasurer in writing, and by resolution of the Membership. The President shall represent the Association at all meetings with other civic, political and/or other veterans' organizations where the representation of this organization is desired, requested or deemed necessary. The President shall direct the annual IRS Report of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Recon Association.

### Section 4. Vice-President.

The Vice-President shall have such powers and duties as may from time to time be delegated by the President. In the absence or disability of the President, the Vice-President shall also perform such other duties not inconsistent with these By-Laws, as may be assigned to him from time to time by the President or the Membership.

### Section 5. Secretary.

The Secretary shall attend all Meetings of the general Membership and record all proceedings. The Secretary shall be the custodian of the records of the Association and shall affix the seal to all such documents as may be required. He shall perform all duties pertaining to the Office of

Secretary and such other duties, not inconsistent with these, as may be assigned to him from time to time by the President. In addition, the Secretary shall prepare, post, and disseminate all legal notices, correspondence and other materials as required by laws, statutes and regulations. The Secretary shall make certain that the minutes of all Meetings are properly prepared and filed.

#### Section 6. Treasurer.

The Treasurer shall receive and collect all monies payable to the Association and deposit the same in such banks or other depositories as may be chosen by the Membership by resolution at its Periodic Reunion Meeting. He shall make all lawful payments of obligations. He shall have custody of all securities, valuable papers and documents of the Association. He shall keep or cause to be kept a book or books that contain an accurate record of all receipts and disbursements, and shall, when and as required, render a statement of the financial condition of the Association. He shall perform all duties incident to the Office of the Treasurer, and have such powers and duties as may from time to time be delegated to him by the President. In general, the Treasurer shall perform all the duties not inconsistent with those, as may be assigned to him by the President of the Association. The Treasurer shall prepare a financial report for the Periodic Reunion Meetings and such other records which may be required by law.

#### Section 7. Sergeant-at-Arms

The Sergeant-at-Arms shall be responsible for maintaining order during all Meetings. The Sergeant-at-Arms shall lead the Meetings in the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag. The Sergeant-at-Arms shall maintain sign-in sheets for recording attendance at all membership meetings. The Sergeant-at-Arms shall collect and count any and all written ballots when secret elections or other secret votes are conducted.

#### Section 8. Chaplain.

The Chaplain shall open and close all Meetings with prayer, shall correspond with all surviving next-of-kin of Members who may die, and shall conduct or cause to be conducted Memorial Services as necessary.

#### Section 9. Historian.

The Historian shall research, catalog and maintain military historical data on the 3rd Recon Battalion's participation in all past and current conflicts. The Historian shall develop programs for the Association that will increase public awareness of the heroic efforts put forth by Marines and Navy personnel during those conflicts.

#### Section 10. Publicity/Membership Director.

The Publicity/Membership Director shall maintain the Membership Roster of the Association. He shall develop programs to increase the Membership through Periodic Reunions and advertisements. He shall interact with various Veterans Service Organizations and Military Membership Associations to gain additional Membership and support for the Association. He

shall develop plans for Periodic Reunions of the general Membership in coordination with the Association Officers and needs of the Members.

#### Section 11. Service Officer.

The Service Officer shall provide services at no cost to Members of the Association and their spouses who are seeking information on Federal, State and local benefits, education, employment opportunities and long-term health services earned by virtue of the Member's military service.

#### Section 12. Associate Directors.

Associate Directors will consist of one representative chosen from each Company to serve as Company Representative and serve as full Executive Committee Members. There will be one representative from each Company - Alpha, Bravo, Charlie, Delta, Echo, H&S, and Force.

#### Section 13. Compensation.

Officers shall not receive any salary or other compensation for services rendered as an Officer.

#### Section 14. Authorization to expend monies.

Monies shall be expended as determined by the Membership at the Periodic Reunion Meetings. For such expenses that may occur between Meetings of the general Membership, upon written concurrence by the President, Secretary, and Treasurer, funds may be expended in any amount necessary to ensure printing of the Association Newsletter and to defray expenses in connection with legal requirements of the Association or any other expenses necessary that will benefit the Membership as a whole. Monies may be temporarily lent to the Association without interest to ensure payment of expenses.

#### Section 15. Trustee Board.

The Association will have a Trustee Board installed for life. The Members of this board are Raymond E. Strohl, Alan T. Rooney, George G. Neville Jr., and Robert E. Young.

#### Section 16. Contracts.

The Executive Committee of the 3rd Recon Association is given authority to pursue and enter into contracts pertaining to merchandising at Battalion sponsored events.

## **ARTICLE V - AMENDMENTS**

Section 1. These By-Laws may be amended, supplemented, or repealed from time to time by a two-thirds vote of the Membership at the Periodic Reunion Meeting.

## **ARTICLE VI – DISSOLUTION**

### Section 1. Procedure.

The Association may be dissolved at any periodic reunion meeting upon a two-thirds vote of all Members present provided that an announcement of such intended action has been published to all Members at least three months prior to the intended act of dissolution. In the event that the Association is dissolved, then the assets shall first be transferred to the U.S. Marine Corps League for use in youth support programs, provided that such fund qualified as exempt from Federal taxation under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1954, as amended, or any successor statute thereto.

### Section 2. Alternative Distribution.

In the event that the Association shall be dissolved, all of its remaining assets and property, less outstanding valid debts, accounts, claims and the necessary expenses of dissolution, shall be distributed to such corporations, associations, trusts, funds or foundations as are selected by the Membership at Meeting, which are then exempt from Federal Income taxation under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1954, as amended, or any successor statute thereto.

## **NOTES CONCERNING THESE BY-LAWS**

1. The provision concerning "Associate Membership" so limited that 90% remains military veterans is necessary in order to qualify as tax-exempt under provisions of the IRS.
2. All provisions for an Executive Board have been omitted since they are, at this point, unnecessary due to the small amount of business and number of Meetings.
3. Provisions concerning the Officers are standard.
4. Compensation not being given to Officers is necessary in order to maintain tax-exempt status.
5. Authorization to expend monies is necessary to ensure continued printing of the Newsletter. It enables a Member or Members to deposit funds temporarily to guarantee printing of the Newsletter.
6. The Dissolution provisions are necessary in order to obtain reduced mailing expenses from the Post Office. They are a prudent procedure so that Members know that any funds they donate will always be for good purposes that benefit the Membership.
7. Article IV - Section 14. This Section was added to the By-Laws as an amendment during a Meeting of the Members held on 28 April, 1990 at Las Vegas, Nevada.
8. Article III - Section 4. This Section was added to the By-Laws as an amendment during a Meeting of the Members held on 23 March, 1991 at Hilton Head, South Carolina.

9. Article IV - Section 15. This Section was added to the By-Laws as an amendment during a Meeting of the Members held on 23 March, 1991 at Hilton Head, South Carolina.

10. Article IV - Section 1 and Article IV - Section 11 were amended during a Meeting of the Members held on 23 September, 1998 at Las Vegas, Nevada.

11. Article IV – Section 2 was amended to cause the terms of office of the Officers to coincide with the occasions of the Periodic Meetings, as adopted during a Meeting of the Members held on 4 July, 2002 at Alexandria, Virginia.

12. Article IV – Section 11 was inserted (and all following Sections renumbered and necessarily Section 1 amended) to establish the Office of Service Officer, as adopted during a Meeting of the Members held on 10 September, 2004 at Louisville, Kentucky.

13. Article II – Section 4 was amended to require dues from the Members, but the amount was left to the Executive Committee to determine, as adopted during a Meeting of the Members held on 10 September, 2004 at Louisville, Kentucky.

14. Article III – Section 5 was added to establish the authority for a Wives Auxiliary, as adopted during a Meeting of the Members held on 23 September, 2006 at San Diego, California.

15. Article II – Section 1 (and necessarily Art. I, Sect. 1; Art. II, Sect. 3 and Art. IV, Sect. 9) was amended to remove the past restriction of Membership to the Vietnam conflict, and to open Membership to combat veterans of the Battalion who served in any conflict, as adopted during a Meeting of the Members held on 15 October, 2010 at Lead, South Dakota.

16. Article II – Section 1 was amended to avoid denying Membership to those who served in combat with the Battalion for which no medal or ribbon may have been awarded and for which no combat zone may have been established, and to ensure only those who are combat veterans of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Reconnaissance Battalion are accepted as Members, as adopted during a Meeting of the Members held on 26 September, 2012 at Williamsburg, Virginia.

17. Article III – Section 5 was amended to remove the past restriction of Membership in the Auxiliary to wives of Members and to expand it to now include women Members and all women Associate Members, as adopted during a Meeting of the Members held on 26 September, 2012 at Williamsburg, Virginia.