

Scuttlebutt

October, 2024

Branch/Unit 269  
Goose Creek  
South Carolina



National website: [fra.org](http://fra.org)

<http://facebook.com/groups/frabrandandunit269>

Southeast region: [frasoutheastregion.org](http://frasoutheastregion.org)

Branch 269 website: [fra269gc.org](http://fra269gc.org)

**Branch President's Corner**

Shipmates

The Southeast Convention that Branch and Unit 269 hosted was very successful.

The President has computer problems so he will have more information next month.

Yours in Loyalty, Protection and Service  
Ken Hutchison

**BRANCH OFFICERS**

President – Kenneth Hutchison Vice-President - Donald Barton  
Treasurer - PNP Don Muecheck Secretary - Cindy Bryan  
Jr. Past President – Harry Nettles

**BRANCH BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

PNC Laurie Bailey Tim Bailey Skip Chilton  
Steven Koch Ronald Lamon Tom Lawson  
Glenn Little William Maloon Rob Melton  
Bobbi Sutton Larry Pepper Ken Wallace

Appointees and Committee Chairs

Chaplain – Bobbi Sutton

Legislative Affairs – PRPSE Fred Bolz

Parliamentarian – PNP Don Muecheck

By-Laws PRPSE Fred Bolz Youth Activities-Donald Barton

Master-at-Arms-Glenn Little Ways and Means-Larry Pepper

PRelations/Newsletter- John Tharp

Webmaster: Nick Nichols

Essay Contest PNC Laurie Bailey

Membership – Ken Wallace

**LOW COUNTRY HOME, LLC**

99 Wisteria Road- (843) 569-2692

Home Chairman – Ken Wallace

Admin Secretary-Bobbi Sutton Financial Sec-Sтивен Koch

Director – Sue Peters

Director-PNC Laurie Bailey

Director -Dee Wallace

Director – Gail Bolz

Director -John Tharp

Director -Rob Melton

Director – Skip Chilton

Director – Tim Bailey

**LAFRA UNIT 269**

**UNIT OFFICERS**

President – Trish Chilton Vice President – Marilyn Tharp

Secretary Yvonne Wallace Treasurer- PRPSE Gale Nathan

Jr Past President – PRPSE Gail Bolz

**Board of Directors**

PRPSE Gail Bolz Kathy Sorenson

PNP/NFS Pat Suckow Theresa Milligan

Linda Cox Ann Griffith

Sue Peters Anne Barton

**LAFRA UNIT 269**

**Appointees & Committee Chairs**

Chaplain – Theresa Milligan

Amer/Pat – Vacant

Sergeant-at-Arms

VAVS – Theresa Milligan

Kathy Sorenson

Welfare/Rehab – Sue Peters

Linda Nichols

Parliamentarian-PRPSE Gail Bolz

Publicity- Debra Breeze

Ship's Store --Trish Chilton

Hospital – Theresa Milligan

Membership Marilyn Tharp

Unit Activities -- All Members

Youth Activities—Anne Barton

### Madam President Tidbits

Our September meeting was successful. We were unable to review our By Laws and will review them in October.

We continue to work on retention, membership and attendance at our meetings and functions.

We have a cake auction October the 4<sup>th</sup> at 1800. We have an auctioneer to assist us. Bring your cake/pies/etc. the day of the auction.

BUNKO will be on October the 20<sup>th</sup> at 12:30. Come enjoy the fun.

The Vietnam Wall (The wall that Heals) will be at Dorchester Heritage Center (964 Highway 78) Ridgeville on October 17 – 20<sup>th</sup>. I encourage everyone to attend.

Trish Chilton

Unit President

Yours in Loyalty, Protection and Service

### **WEEKLY DRAWING AT THE HOME**

Names drawn lately: 8/27-Wendy Holman, not signed; 9-3 Joseph Wiehl, not signed; 9/10- Sandra Pepples, not signed; 9/14 – Joseph Chapman, signed, not present; 9/24 – Joseph Siehl, not signed.

You must be a member of the Branch or Unit in good standing and you must be signed in the log. You can sign up until 1800 hours, on the day of the drawing. The drawing is held every Tuesday night at 2030 hours.

### **BRANCH MEMBERSHIP REPORT**

New or Reinstated Members – 3  
Transferred into Low Country Branch 269 – 0  
Transferred from Branch 269 – 0  
Ready to renew – 19  
Past Due - 15  
Suspended members - 11  
Transferred to the Staff of the Supreme Commander - 1  
Total members: 769

### **Membership/Retention: Ken Wallace**

Total Members: 769

**New Join:** Chris Ludwig, Cubit Robinson, Ryan Stevenson

**Ready to Renew:** Robert Beilstein, Robert Burnett, Aalan Dempster, Oscar Diano, James Finney, James Fleming, Joseph Glavan, Terrell Heath, William Hunter, ,David Karrick, Brian Masterson, Leonard Monnig John Newby, Don Pace, Robert Pulos, Garry Radwick, Roberta Sutton, Daniel Wall, Robert Warder.

**Past Due:** Jordan Carver, Joshua Chandler, Paul Close, Arthur Di Flippo, Albert Godwin, William Haney, Daniel Jamison Jr., Y. L. Little, Casey Preece, Henry Pridgen II, Brian Sims, Richmond Smith, Robert Sowards, Fred Sprague, Joseph Weber

**Suspended:** Thomas Beach, Darrell Boggs, Terry Corley, Charles Hughes Jr., Timothy Kuehhas, Derrick Mihanovich, John Ponteri, Robert Ramsey, Wade Reid, Michael Schlievert, Mark Tracy.

### **Unit Membership and Retention:**

Past Due 30 Days: Brian Adams, Ryan Adams, Tyler Adams, Allyson McDermott, Rosie Soderlud, Cynthia Young

60 days late: Sarah Scott

90 days late: Melissa Molina-Mattix, Joan Wilson

**Prayers for the family of: Ronald Kring**

Shipmates or Unit members please contact

**Branch Chaplain Bobbi Sutton @ 843-879-9473**

**Unit Chaplain Theresa Milligan @ 843-535-2757**

**BRANCH TREASURER'S REPORT**

Operations	\$ 6,593.20
Savings	\$ 5,179.19
Certificate of Deposit	\$ 11,561.71
Total	\$ 23,334.10

**Branch Continuous Membership – October, 2024**

John Lambert (57)	William Jenkins (24)	Guy Traveglia (17)	RICHARD HERNDON (9)
John Lemieux (57)	Richard Roebuck (24)	William Campbell (16)	GARRY RADWICK (8)
Clyde Edington (54)	Jeffrey Muniz (23)	James Fleming (16)	LOWELL MILLS (7)
Earnest Hall (50)	Carey Baxley (21)	Ed Young (16)	WILLIAM PYE JR (7)
Rocco Losito (50)	Mitchell McCain Jr (20)	Kim Hamilton (15)	DAVID KARRICK (6)
Kenneth Wallace (50)	Timothy Bailey (19)	Robert Jett (15)	JULIAN CZEISZPERGER (5)
John Parnell (49)	Terrell Heath (19)	James Nelson (15)	FRANK HIXENBAUGH (5)
Joseph Glavan (46)	Stephen Jackson (19)	Daniel Wall (15)	JONATHAN STARRY (2)
Robert Beilstein (44)	Leonard Monnig (19)	Darryl Watson (15)	ROBERT WARDER (2)
Gerald Fraser (44)	Roberta Sutton (19)	Wendy Holman (14)	GARY ARQUIOLA (1)
Marvin Brigman (39)	James Gregory (18)	Ken Anderson (13)	ROBERT BURNETT (1)
Alan Dempster (38)	William Hunter (18)	David Clemmons (13)	JOHN NEWBY (1)
Joh Paul (31)	Brian Masterson (18)	Bruce Bailey (13)	LYNDON PORFTAER (1)
Charles Rein (29)	Robert Mastrion (18)	Ronnie Kerstetter (12)	ROBERT PULOS (1)
Don Pace (29)	Phillip Nunnally (18)	Jeffrey Elliott (11)	DAVID TASCHNER (1)
Oscar Diano (25)	Melvin Harper (17)	Mark Tompkins (11)	
Betty Hilliard (24)	Richard Nolan (17)	Edward Stover (9)	
	Brandon Pruett (17)	Larry Turner (9)	

**Unit 269 Continuous Membership  
October, 2024**

Gale Natrhan (44)	Rhonda McNally (12)	David Emerson (8)	TYLER ADAMS (2)
Yvonne Wallace (21)	Chun Stanfield (11)	DANIEL MARCH (4)	WILLIAM ADAMS (2)
Cynthia Young (20)	Allyson McDermot (10)	BRIAN ADAMS (2)	
Carolyn Rose (20)	James Siroky (9)	RYAN ADAMS (2)	



Congratulations to Rodney McKanna for receiving his 15 year continuous membership pin from Branch President Ken Hutchison

## YOUR BIRTHDAY IS IN October- 2024

If you are a Branch 269 or Unit 269 member, come on in to the Low Country Home **on your birthday** for a **FREE BIRTHDAY LUNCH**

Brendan Goff (1)	Ernest Holt (9)	Dwayne Ashline (15)	Orlando Maninging (24)
Mark Heck (1)	Joseph VonBrincken (9)	Hilton Hooks (15)	Gary Gander (26)
Sandra Rader (1)	Ken Anderson (10)	Thomas Skorepa (16)	Ralph Rohrsen (26)
Robert Jett (2)	Dennis Lambries (10)	Craig Wold (16)	Denise McCready (27)
Shannon Cason (3)	William Cole (11)	Lindsay Nelson (18)	Llewellyn Brennen (28)
Verne Merrill (3)	Charles Hines (11)	John Aguilera (19)	Robert Kowsecianski (28)
Joseph Dick (4)	Maria Luisa Gulick (12)	Norris Nathan (19)	Dennis Hazel (29)
Remedia Crawford (5)	Lonnie Kenney (12)	Ronnie Jones (20)	Merle Melling (29)
William Butler (6)	Bryan Kopezynski (12)	Robin McKeown (20)	George Miller (29)
Brian Koller (6)	John Lookabill (12)	Lee Barkley (21)	Cubit Robinson (31)
Amanda Reid (6)	Earnest Hall (13)	Samuel Jenkins Jr (21)	
Kathy Sumner (6)	Fred Lentz (13)	Robert Traynor (21)	
William Baranek (7)	Brian Marrale (13)	Joseph Wiehl (22)	
Charles Walker (8)	Robert Clement (14)	James Belemare (23)	
Richard Dougherty (9)	James McCutcheon (14)	Loretta Dailey (23)	



Congratulations to all the great work of the Board of Directors for FRA Association  
Year 2023-2024 for Branch 269

## Home Committee Report

Cash Audit by S/M S. Koch and R. Sutton on 13 September 2024 as follows: Checkbook balance \$15,708.83, Credit Card account \$5,595.72, Savings account \$26,443.59; there is \$830.00 in pending check/cash for deposit. Total funds \$60,078.83.

Financial Audit as of 31 August 2024 reflects the following balances: Checking Account (#3201) \$3,335.04, Regular Savings Account (#5834) \$26,439.11, and Credit Card account (#5201) \$16,337.41. We had a net loss for the month of \$6,500, but our YTD Profit of \$4,946.14.

### **Building and Grounds/Special Events/and Manager's Report:**

There was a well attended indoor picnic on Monday the 2nd of September, to celebrate Labor Day. The Home provided Hotdogs and hamburger, chips and pasta salad; Desserts were provided by the attendees and enjoyed by all.

The golf tournament was well attended on Saturday, the 7th of September, followed by lunch and awards at the Home.

The "Goose" was received and installed.

The Banquet Hall and Foyer has been painted and prepped for the Southeast Regional Convention BBQ at the Home on 25 September 2024 (1800 thru 2200).

**New Business:** please welcome our newest member, Kim Vandiver, who is replacing Gail Bolz, and joining us next month

Navy Birthday (11 October 2024) come join us for cake and song.

Pill Party, Saturday, 10 AM, 19 October 2024, at the Home. Come join us as we replace the names for the Weekly Drawing Pills.

**Membership and Security:** Headquarters reported that we have 769 active Branch members as of 01 September. There are 187 active Unit members. S/M Cindy Bryan reports we have five new members who have been issued key cards.

**Good of the Order:** our next Home Committee meeting will be Monday, October 14 at 1300,

One final reminder, if you bring a Non-Member to Home, please remember to sign them into the Guest Log.

Ken Wallace, Home Committee Chairman.



The Branch will be hosting a cake cutting ceremony for the 249<sup>th</sup> U.S. Navy Birthday at the Fleet on October 11<sup>th</sup> at 1800



Branch 269 members taking a break between FRA Southeast Convention meetings.



Left: (Left to right) Ray Stanfield, Chun Stanfield and Johnny Brown did an excellent job in making a BBQ dinner for all the Southeast members



Major General James Livingston (Medal of Honor Recipient) was the guest speaker for the opening ceremony at the FRA Southeast Convention in Charleston.



Left: Center with hardhat is the Southeast President (Jerry Anger)





Right: Center is Ryan Adkins being installed as the Southeast Region Vice President.



Mark your calendar, watch for  
 details, watch for additions

Friday nights – 1930 hrs – Scotch Doubles, 8-ball Tournament

**October, 2024**

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1	2	3 <b>Subvet Eboard</b>	4	5
6 Free Pool	7	8	9	10 Subvet Mtg 	11 <b>1800 Cake Cutting US Navy 249<sup>th</sup> Birthday</b>	12 DAV Meeting 1000
13 Free Pool	14 <b>Home Committee 1300</b>	15 <b>Unit Meeting 1800</b>	16 <b>LCCC 1900</b>	17 Branch Mtg 	18	19
20 Free Pool	21	22	23	24 MCL Mtg 	25 MOAA 1100	26
27 FREE POOL	28 VVA Mtg 	29 <b>Sojourners 1900</b>	30	31		

## November 2024

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2
3 <b>Free Pool</b> <b>Daylight Savings Time Ends</b>	4	5	6	7 <b>Subvet Eboard</b>	8	9 <b>DAV Meeting 1000</b>
10 Free Pool	11 <b>Indoor Picnic</b>  <b>1900 Marine Corps League Birthday Cake Cutting. All are welcome to help us celebrate.</b>	12	13  <b>LCCC 1900</b>	14 SubVet Mtg  	15	16  <b>Golf Tournament</b>
17 <b>Free Pool</b>	18  <b>Home Committee 1300</b>	19  <b>Unit Meeting 1800</b>	20	21 Branch mtg  	22  <b>MOAA 1100</b>	23
24  <b>FREE POOL</b>	25 VVA Mtg  	26  <b>Sojourners 1900</b>	27	28	29	30



As members came into the 60's/70's celebration they got their pictures taken prior to a drink and dancing, as well as karaoke. Last picture is Tim Bailey who got best costume and dancing!!!!

Below: Left to right: Members are getting ready for registration. Some liked to dance a lot (even old sailors).

Karaoke singing by the experts.



Above left: Jr. Past President receives his Jr. Past hat. Above right: President Jerry Anger gets his ritual of being the new President.

Below left: Jr Past Presidents (SEFRA and LAFRASE President exchange gifts. Jr. Past Carl Kirtley received an embroied map of Southeast and Ronalee Klase received a glass cross.





A complex new shooting assessment program that requires Marines to be fast, mobile and accurate is rolling out across the Marine Corps, and the infantry community will be the first to be put to the test.

Gone are the days of static target shooting without a time limit. The infantry marksmanship assessment, or IMA, now used primarily at Marine Corps secondary training locations such as Schools of Infantry—East and West, will be the evaluation standard for all grunts within the next five years, according to a new marksmanship campaign plan announced this month by Marine Corps Training and Education Command.

Much of what has been the shooting standard for decades is now out the window in what Marines are calling the biggest change to shooting protocols in more than a century.

The new small arms shooting standard, like the Annual Rifle Qualification introduced in 2021, will have Marines moving, changing positions and hitting realistic human targets under pressure, according to details published by the Marine Corps.

But the “secret sauce,” according to Col. Scott Cuomo, commander of Weapons Training Battalion in Quantico, Virginia, is a tablet-based data collection system that tells Marines not only how accurately they shot, but also how quickly.

Known as the Joint Marksmanship Assessment Program, or JMAP, the device, which was developed by the Naval Health Research Center, creates a digital score sheet that officials say will give Marines a much better picture of how they’ll perform under pressure in combat.

Also gone is the framework that allows Marines to max out their shooting scores. With the IMA/JMAP combo, scores will be tabulated by assessing each round’s proximity to lethal zones on targets that feature human silhouettes, according to videos released by the Marine Corps.

Accuracy scores will be divided by time — the number of seconds it takes to get into position, reload under pressure and put rounds on target, all of which will be tracked by JMAP. The actual scoring classification system has yet to be developed, but it is expected to be finalized by next fall, according to the marksmanship plan.

As described in Marine Corps documents, the IMA, as it will be implemented, consists of the following four courses of fire, totaling 49 rounds in all:

**Known Distance Traverse (18 rounds).** Three exercises of six rounds each will see Marines firing two rounds at a 100-meter steel target from a supported kneeling position; moving to a barricade-supported position to fire another two shots at a 200-meter target; and then placing weapons on safe while moving into a prone position to the right of the barricade before firing another two shots at a 300-meter target.

**Short bay distance (15 rounds).** Marines fire five rounds in a standing position, another five rounds in the kneeling position and then move in closer to the targets while speed-reloading to fire the last five rounds from a standing position.

**Shooting on the move (6 rounds).** Marines fire at two side-by-side targets resembling enemies while continuously on the move. They will fire two shots to the chest of the left target, two to the chest of the right target, conduct a rapid reload and fire one shot each into the heads of each target.

**Manipulation and recoil control (10 rounds).** In a rapid shooting evolution, Marines will unload six rounds into the chest of a humanoid target, followed by shooting four rounds to the head.

In the marksmanship plan, this high-pressure, combat-simulating shooting strategy is designated by the acronym SPEAR: Speed, Precision, Executive Control, Adaptability and Risk Exposure.

Cuomo said the changes connect to the combat future Marines envision, in which they're fighting in smaller elements and at greater distances from each other in an environment like the Indo-Pacific.

“Translated, that means there's going to be [fewer] Marines and maybe as many of the adversary, or maybe more of the adversary,” Cuomo said. “So, if you really believe these things, then you had better make sure that the Marine is ... objectively more lethal with the ammo that you're giving.”

The present reality, however, is that Marines have been deeply concerned about shooting — and their lacking performance on past battlefields — for years.



Navy ships intercepted a Houthi barrage of missiles and drones launched from Yemen at the shipping lanes of the Red Sea, the Pentagon confirmed Friday, while also denying reports that any ships were hit in the attack. “We did see a complex attack launched from the Houthis that ranged from cruise missiles and [unmanned aerial vehicles],” said Sabrina Singh, deputy press secretary for the Defense Department. The Iran-backed Houthi claimed Friday to have damaged three U.S. Navy warships in a bombardment of 23 missiles and bomber drones. The Navy destroyers, the Houthis’ military spokesperson said in a televised speech, were targeted as they transited the Bab al-Mandeb Strait in the Red Sea. The Bab al-Mandeb Strait connects the Red Sea to the Gulf of Aden, between Yemen. “My understanding is that those were either engaged and shot down or failed,” Singh said, referring to the Houthi missiles and drones. No U.S. military ships were struck, and there were no injuries to U.S. service members, she also said.

The USS Abraham Lincoln and its carrier strike group are in the region. The strike group includes three destroyers: USS Spruance, USS Stockdale, and USS O’Kane. Singh on Friday declined to say whether the destroyers were the intended targets of the Houthi missiles. “We did what we had to do to protect our forces, and at the end of the day, no ship was hit -- no damage and no injuries to our personnel,” she said. U.S. Central Command, which is responsible for military assets across the Middle East, and the Navy Office of Information confirmed the sea service intercepted the missiles but referred additional questions back to the Pentagon.



From its first days on the flight line, the F-35 Joint Strike Fighter had to overcome a reputation that it was too expensive and too delicate.

Detractors complained that the fifth-generation jet couldn't dogfight as well as legacy aircraft, was years delayed and billions over budget and was hindered by finicky software and a complicated maintenance system.

But when the F-35 showed up to support friendly forces in Afghanistan, the response was far different.

In his book "The Last Commander," released this summer, [Afghan Lt. Gen. Sami Sadat](#) gives a first-of-its-kind account of an early F-35 mission, shortly after the jet began deploying to Afghanistan for the first time.

Sadat, who was the last person to command Afghan National Army forces in Afghanistan prior to the fall of the country's government — amid the 2021 U.S. military withdrawal — describes a platform so new and secretive it needed a codename. It also displayed a capability that made his troops marvel.

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Lt. Gen. Sami Sadat scans a formation of Afghan troops in 2021. (Courtesy of Sami Sadat)

While Marine Corps F-35Bs flew the platform's first combat mission in Afghanistan in 2018, coming off the amphibious assault ship Essex to hit a target in support of ground clearance operations, the planes would remain a rare sight over the country, with U.S. troops routinely calling on familiar platforms like the F-16 Fighting Falcon and A-10 Thunderbolt.

But when Sadat and his ground commanders were working to clear out Taliban strongholds in mountainous southwestern Afghanistan in the winter of 2019-20, they found themselves in need of a capability the A-10 couldn't supply.

During an operation to protect the Salma Dam, located in Herat province, from Taliban destruction, one detachment of Afghan troops became stuck as they pushed north, Sadat writes in his book. Cloud cover in temperatures plunging below zero made it impossible to conduct air strikes against the Taliban using U.S.-supplied A-10s.

“That’s when we made the first use in Afghanistan of a weapon which would give us a significant advantage in winter fighting,” Sadat recalls.

He described a conversation with U.S. Air Force Maj. Michael Martin, then deputy commanding general of Special Operations Joint Task Force-Afghanistan. Martin said he had access to a plane that could solve Sadat’s problems.

“We could mobilize tens of thousands of soldiers in a matter of months. We believe ... thousands of fresh recruits will also rush to the call.”

“Sami, I can’t tell you the type of aircraft we are employing, but it can bomb accurately through clouds,” Sadat remembers Martin telling him.

In response, Sadat suggested a code name: “Cool Birds.”

The name stuck, and a nighttime strike mission was authorized. An Afghan major general confirmed grid references and gave the mission verbal assent.

“But he was confused,” Sadat writes. “He could hear no planes. He had no idea of the capability of the F-35s.”

Minutes later, he got a call from the general, shocked that the strike had taken place — as evidenced by loud booms and the disappearance of the Taliban threat — all without even hearing the stealthy F-35s approaching, Sadat writes.

“And so, through confident patrolling village after village through the snow, allied with the most sophisticated technology available on any battlefield, we turned the winter to our advantage,” Sadat’s account reads. The Americans, he added, “were glad of the opportunity to test their capability in real conditions.”

In an interview with Military Times, Sadat, who now lives in northern Virginia, expanded on his story, saying the event left a lasting impression on the Afghan troops.

“The impact [the F-35] left on my soldiers was amazing. Like, whoa, you know, we have this technology,” Sadat said. “But also the impact on the Taliban was quite crippling, because they have never seen Afghan forces move in the winter, and they have never seen planes that could bomb through the clouds.”

Sadat with his memoir in northern Virginia. (Hope Hodge Seck)

Sadat said he was so concerned about the risks Afghan ground forces were taking during the winter operation that it left him with physical pains in his stomach during missions.

But “everything worked out,” he said, “in an extraordinary way.”

One of the most heralded features of the F-35 was its distributed aperture system, comprising six sensors around the perimeter of the plane. Paired with a \$400,000 helmet, the system allowed pilots to “see through” the plane and essentially have a 360-degree view of their surroundings.

These tools, according to the Air Force, enable “positive target identification and precision strike in all weather conditions.”

As for the Afghan military forces, despite what Sadat describes as a series of victories against the Taliban in 2019 and 2020, he writes that forward momentum was hindered by the 2020 Doha Agreement’s peace negotiations with the Taliban.

That agreement, he said, weakened the Afghans’ offensive capability and limited the U.S. military’s capacity to support their missions. Then, when Kabul fell in 2021, Afghanistan’s military scattered and fled.

Sadat is planning a tour for his book in part to raise awareness and support for the Afghanistan United Front, an organization he founded that is currently working on a strategy to overcome the

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