



3D RECONNAISSANCE BATTALION



MISSION STATEMENT

THE PRIMARY MISSION OF 3D RECONNAISSANCE BATTALION IS TO CONDUCT AFO, BATTLESPACE SHAPING, AMPHIBIOUS RECONNAISSANCE, UNDERWATER RECONNAISSANCE, GROUND RECONNAISSANCE AND SURVEILLANCE TO OBSERVE, IDENTIFY, AND REPORT INTELLIGENCE INFORMATION ON THE ENEMY, WEATHER, AND TERRAIN BY USE OF SPECIAL INSERTION AND EXTRACTION AND SURVEILLANCE ALONG WITH OTHER OPERATIONS AS DIRECTED IN SUPPORT OF THE 3D MARINE DIVISION.

UNIT HISTORY – CHRONOLOGY

THE 3RD RECONNAISSANCE COMPANY WAS ACTIVATED ON 16 SEPTEMBER 1942 AT MARINE CORPS BASE CAMP PENDLETON, CALIFORNIA AS THE COMPANY E (SCOUTS), 3RD TANK BATTALION, AND ASSIGNED TO THE 3RD MARINE DIVISION.

ON 20 APRIL 1943, THEY WERE REDESIGNATED AS 3RD SCOUT COMPANY, HEADQUARTERS BATTALION, 3RD MARINE DIVISION.

ON 1 JULY 1943, THEY WERE REDESIGNATED AS COMPANY D (SCOUT), 3RD TANK BATTALION.

ON 1 APRIL 1944, THEY WERE REDESIGNATED DIVISION RECONNAISSANCE COMPANY, HEADQUARTERS BATTALION, 3RD MARINE DIVISION.

REACTIVATED ON 1 MARCH 1952 AT CAMP PENDLETON, THEY WERE DESIGNATED AS RECONNAISSANCE COMPANY, HEADQUARTERS BATTALION AND ASSIGNED TO THE 3RD MARINE DIVISION, FLEET MARINE FORCE.

IN AUGUST 1953, THEY DEPLOYED TO CAMP MCGILL, JAPAN; AND SUBSEQUENTLY REDEPLOYED IN APRIL 1956 TO CAMP HAUGE, OKINAWA.

THEY WERE DEACTIVATED ON 14 APRIL 1958 AND REACTIVATED THE FOLLOWING DAY, 15 APRIL 1958, AT CAMP SCHWAB, OKINAWA, AS THE 3RD RECONNAISSANCE BATTALION, 3RD MARINE DIVISION.

IN 1961, THEY RETURNED TO CAMP SCHWAB, OKINAWA UNDER THE COMMAND OF MEDAL OF HONOR RECIPIENT COLONEL "WILD BILL" BARBER. COMPANY "C" RECON MARINES WERE ALSO INSERTED BY AIR AMERICA FROM THAILAND INTO VIETNAM AND POSSIBLY LAOS AND CAMBODIA.

3RD RECON BATTALION DEPLOYED TO VARIOUS LOCATIONS IN THE WESTERN PACIFIC UNTIL ITS STAND DOWN AND DEACTIVATION IN 1992.

AFTER DE-ACTIVATION, 3RD RECON BATTALION COMPANIES DEVOLVED TO THREE REGIMENTS IN 3RD MARINE DIVISION: A Co. - RECON COMPANY, 3RD MARINE REGIMENT, B Co. - RECON COMPANY, 9TH MARINE REGIMENT, AND D Co. - RECON COMPANY, 4TH MARINE REGIMENT. C Co. PERSONNEL WERE FOLDED INTO B AND D COMPANIES PRIOR TO DISBANDMENT.

IN JANUARY 1994, RECON COMPANIES, 4TH MARINE REGIMENT AND 9TH MARINE REGIMENT MERGED TO FORM RECON COMPANY, HEADQUARTERS BATTALION, 3RD MARINE DIVISION AT CAMP SCHWAB, OKINAWA. RECON COMPANY, 3RD MARINE REGIMENT REMAINED AT THE REGIMENTAL LEVEL.

ON 2 JUNE 2000, 3RD RECONNAISSANCE BATTALION WAS AGAIN REACTIVATED BY COMBINING THE FORCE AND COMPANY RECONNAISSANCE ELEMENTS.