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### **FRA Honors Outstanding USMC Personnel**

For the 12th consecutive year, FRA recognized top Marine Corps enlisted personnel by participating in two special awards ceremonies this week at Quantico MCB, Va. On behalf of NP Gary Blackburn, John Davis, FRA's Director of Legislative Programs, presented awards on Thursday to honor the Marine Corps Recruiting Command's 2009 Staff Non-Commissioned Officers in Charge and Prior Service Recruiters Staff Non-Commissioned Officers in Charge of the Year in recognition of their outstanding service. Marine Corps leadership was represented by Major General R. E. Milstead Jr., Commanding General of Marine Corps Recruiting Command, and Sgt. Major Fenton Reese.

This year's winners are as follows:

Staff Non-Commissioned Officers in Charge of the Year  
GySgt David R. Cope, 6<sup>th</sup> Marine Corps District

Prior Service Recruiters Staff Non-Commissioned Officers in Charge of the Year  
GySgt Jessie J. Redd, 4<sup>th</sup> Marine Corps District

FRA's National Executive Director Joe Barnes presented similar awards to the Marine Corps' top performers during today's 2009 Combined Awards Program. The annual ceremony, also held at Quantico, recognizes the Marine Corps' top Recruiters, Drill Instructors (DI), Marine Corps Embassy Security Guards (MSG), Career Retention Specialists and Combat Instructors (CI). Milstead and Sgt. Major Dennis W. Reed, Marine Corps Combat Development Command, presided at this ceremony. The Association also hosted reception following both events.

Recruiter of the Year  
SSgt Joshua M. Shaffer, Grant, Ind.  
(Meritoriously promoted to GySgt at ceremony)

Prior Service Recruiter of the Year  
SSgt Venus C. Cacace, Queens, N.Y.  
(Meritoriously promoted to GySgt at ceremony)

Drill Instructor of the Year  
SSgt Bryan J. Robbins, Las Cruces, N.M.

Combat Instructor of the Year  
Sgt Ian D. Lampman  
(Meritoriously promoted to SSgt at ceremony)



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Marine Security Guard of the Year  
Sgt Robert E. Catching, St. Louis, MO  
(Meritoriously promoted to SSgt at ceremony)

Career Retention Specialist of the Year  
GySgt Jimmy M.R. Spence, North Charleston, S.C.

FRA is a congressionally chartered, non-profit organization representing the interests of current and former enlisted members of the U.S. Navy, Marine Corps and Coast Guard. In addition to its advocacy work on Capitol Hill in support of enlisted personnel, FRA also sponsors a national Americanism Essay Contest and assists its members with disaster relief grants. The Association has recently established an Education Foundation that awards scholarships to deserving college students.

The Association is celebrating its 85<sup>th</sup> anniversary and was named after the Navy's policy of transferring personnel to the Fleet Reserve or Fleet Marine Corps Reserve after 20 or more years of active duty, but less than the 30 years required for retirement purposes. Although the membership requirements have changed as the Association has evolved, our purpose – to preserve and enhance military pay, benefits and quality-of-life programs – is as important today as it was in 1924. As the collective voice for all Navy, Marine Corps and Coast Guard enlisted personnel, FRA speaks on behalf of its members on Capitol Hill. There is no law protecting military benefits, so FRA is here to stand guard.