

Volume 4, Issue 1 | 1 January 2022

Quarterly Newsletter of the USMC Ground Ordnance Maintenance Association

# The Ordnance Bomb

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# Comments From Chairman LtCol. (Ret) Jim R. Towney

It is hard to believe we are getting ready to move into year 2022. Over the past year your GOMA Association has had a lot of accomplishments. We have implemented and modernized our GOMA Web Page, we have updated our By-Laws, have approved different Membership improvements and awarded three of GOMA Scholarships awards, with the hopes of increasing our scholarship awards next year. We received our approval for our 501c3 and with the hard work of Charles Bushnell and Mike Lewis we filed our first year's tax returns. Best of all, we have coordinated and attended many Ordnances get together and gatherings.

As we look to the future, I can assure you that your GOMA leadership will continue to work hard to keep our association moving in the right direction. I hope everyone had a very Happy 246th Marine Corps Birthday, a very thankful Thanksgiving, and a very Merry Christmas with family and friends. As we move into a new year, we are still looking for some volunteers to take on the Secretary duties, as well as a Scholarship Selection Chairman. If anyone is interested, please reach out to one of the GOMA Board Members. Like I mention in our last newsletter there will be some GOMA Board members vacancies happening in November 2022. We will need a new Chairman, Vice Chairman, and Treasurer. We still have time, but we are going to need some new people to get in-

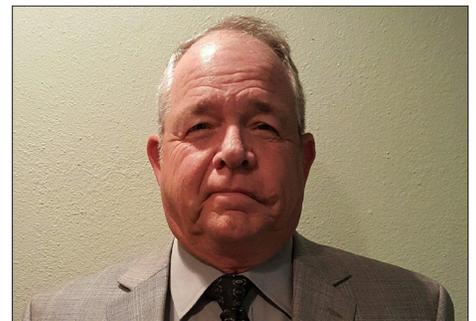


Chairman  
Jim R. Towney, LtCol (Ret)  
Chairman@usmcgoma.org

involved and keep pushing the GOMA in the right direction.

We have changed our monthly meetings times from 1730 PST to 1630 PST. We hope with the change, we start getting some more east coast participation. Our next meeting will go 12 January. The call-in information is 848-220-3300 Conf. Code 306434.

As always, if anyone has any suggestion, thoughts, comments or concerns or has ideas on ways we can improve, please reach out to any the board membership, and let us know. I want to wish everyone a very happy New Year and as always stay safe, stay motivated and look forward to talking with everyone in the future.



Vice-Chairman  
Michael S. Lewis, MGySgt (Ret)  
ViceChairman@usmcgoma.org



Treasurer  
Charles W. Bushnell, MGySgt (Ret)  
Treasurer@usmcgoma.org

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# Warfighter Focus

## FIGHT TONIGHT: DEPLOYMENT READINESS A HUGE FOCUS FOR MARINES

Article written by Cpl Jonathan Spangler



**LAV Mechanics at DYNOFEX-22:** From left to right, Cpl Darveek Blancovitchall, PFC Austin Block, PFC Jimmie Francisconi IV, and Cpl Ryan Shultz

Preparing Marines for the "Fight Tonight" is an essential role in combat readiness for the Marine Corps. This can and should be done in any job or unit in the Marine Corps.

General Support Maintenance Company, 1st Maintenance Battalion

completed a field operation from 18-22 October, which consisted of deploying portable dynamometers.

It had been three years since this had been attempted and the last time it was done, the dynamometers were not operational.

These "expeditionary" dynamometers are containerized stations that are used to run and test engines, transmissions, and other pieces of gear that go to Light Armored Vehicles (LAVs) and High Mobility Multi Wheeled Vehicles (HMMWVs).

Maj Joe Saenz, the CO for GSM Company, tasked the maintenance officer CWO3 Jon Humphreys, with first getting the C7038 expeditionary engine dynamometer, the C7039 expeditionary transmission dynamometer, and the C7072 Automotive Generator Starter Test Stand (AGRS) running, and then getting them to the field in order to test the "expeditionary" capability.

Roughly 17 Marines with various 21XX, 35XX, and 13XX MOSs that participated in this evolution and the Company took known-good and known-bad engines and transmission to run on the dynamometers, as the primary objective was to test the dynos' capabilities in an expeditionary

environment. Cpl Jonathan Spangler, an AAV Mechanic and the Dyno Section NCOIC for GSM, was charged with the logistics of this exercise which he did exceptionally well. He coordinated with outside units to source the MAC-50 for the onload/offload and strategic placement of the containers in a predetermined location that he had surveyed prior, to insure the location was level which reduced the possibility of problems during operation.

The first day consisted of setting up the dynos, ancillary equipment, and power sources. The engines and transmissions were run on the second and third days, with minor speed-bumps along the way.

This was the first time a Detroit 6V53 LAV engine had been run on this Expeditionary Dynamometer so a test pattern was created in order to complete a test. The

**Continued Page 6**

# MEMBER SPOTLIGHT **CWO2 Nick Desimone III**

Chief Warrant Officer 2 Nick Desimone enlisted in the Marine Corps from Hauppauge, NY in October 2007 and went to Boot Camp in Parris Island. After graduating boot camp as a meritorious PFC and completing MCT, he reported to MOS school in Aberdeen, MD to become a 2131/artillery mechanic.

Because the Corps saw that he was destined for greatness, after graduating in June 2008 his first assignment was to 3rd Battalion, 11th Marines in beautiful Twentynine Palms, CA. After only a couple months at 3/11, Private First Class Desimone was promoted to Lance Corporal in September however, since he preferred the respect that he witnessed NCOs receiving, he decided to earn a meritorious promotion to Corporal in December (less than 3 months later). Corporal Desimone deployed to OEF with 3/11 and later a deployment with the 31st MEU. In August 2011, he was again meritoriously promoted; this time to the rank of Sergeant. He finally left

3/11 after nearly 4 years, and headed to MCRD San Diego to mold the next generation of Marines as a Drill Instructor where he earned several accolades for his performance, including 3rd honor graduate from DI School, “most physically fit”, and twice recognized as the Drill Instructor of the Quarter. After successful completion of this SDA, Sergeant Desimone reported in as the Maintenance Chief for 1st Battalion, 11th Marines in Camp Pendleton, CA. In October of 2017 he was promoted to Staff Sergeant and later reported to the Field Artillery School House in Ft Sill, OK before being selected the following year for the Warrant Officer Program.

While at WOBC-20, Desimone received orders to SOI West to be the Assistant Ordnance Officer however, after multiple calls from several Ordnance Officers across the globe, the Division Ordnance Officer routed a request to the Ordnance Officer of I-MEF to have WO Desimone’s orders modified to 3rd Assault Amphibian Battalion (3D



AABn). After graduating TBS as the “Gung Ho” recipient, and completion of Ordnance Officer Course, he reported in to 3D AABn in the summer of 2020. Since then, Chief Warrant Officer 2 DeSimone has been instrumental in improving overall readiness and maintenance processes for 3D AABn. Serving not only as the Battalion Ordnance Officer, Chief Warrant Officer 2 DeSimone simultaneously filled the billet of Company B Maintenance Officer.

Chief Warrant Of-

ficer 2 DeSimone’s actions while serving as Battalion Ordnance Officer supported initiatives external to the battalion. He supported Marine Corps Force Design 2030 by facilitating the successful inventory, inspection, and redistribution weapons, optics, and SL-3 to units throughout 1st Marine Division in order to better align Table of Equipment. His actions ensured a seamless divestment of Company D armory equipment, and enabled swift compliance to Marine Corps Force Design 2030. Throughout

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the last year, Chief Warrant Officer 2 DeSimone also coordinated with multiple external agencies for concept design and implementation of equipment for the new 3D AABn maintenance/armory facility being built. His tireless efforts will ensure proper floor space, shelving, and accessories for weapons, optics, and SL-3 in 3D AABn's new armory facility once construction is complete next year.

In July of 2021 3D AABn was inspected by Field Supply Maintenance Analysis Office (FSMAO). In preparation for this inspection, Chief Warrant Officer 2 DeSimone worked tirelessly and often late into the night and his efforts resulted in 3D AABn Armory passing the FSMAO inspection with zero findings. This was an exceptional feat considering the divestment, fielding, and reorganization recently conducted by the unit.

The FSMAO inspection in July 2021 highlighted a severe maintenance leadership deficiency in Company B. Chief Warrant Officer

2 DeSimone was appointed Company B Maintenance Officer in August 2021. The billet of Company Maintenance Officer at 3D AABn is held by a 2110, Ordnance Vehicle Maintenance Officer. Chief Warrant Officer 2 DeSimone's Military Occupational Specialty (MOS) is 2120, Weapons Repair Officer. Despite his lack of experience with ordnance vehicle maintenance, Chief Warrant Officer 2 DeSimone simultaneously and successfully filled both billets of Battalion Ordnance Officer and Company B Maintenance Officer. His methodical approach to maintenance ensured correct readiness reporting which was evident with an initial drop in Company B readiness followed by a steady increase afterwards. Since Chief Warrant Officer 2 DeSimone assumed the billet of Company B Maintenance Officer, Company B has shown a steady increase in vehicle readiness as well as equipment accountability.

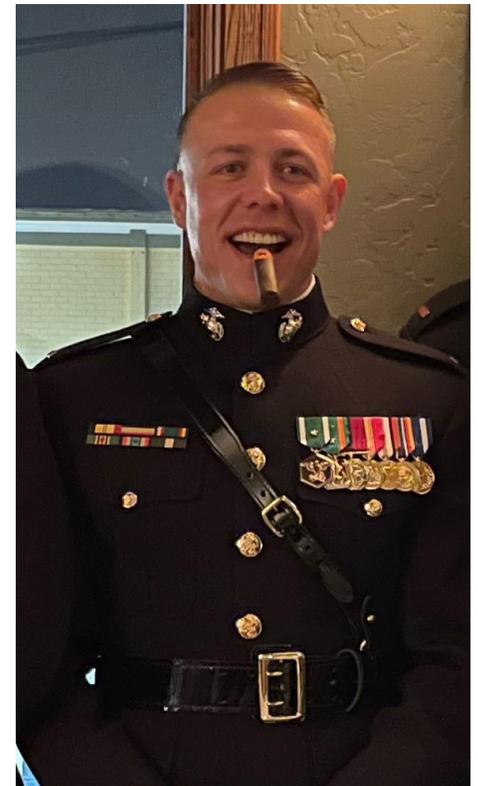
Chief Warrant Officer 2 DeSimone is an exceptional leader. He consistently produces results well

## The Ordnance Bomb

above par, even when performing duties outside his MOS. His ability to supervise and manage ground ordnance maintenance operations are second to none, which is even more remarkable considering he was an arty mechanic and they're generally of below-average intelligence. Kidding aside, what he lacks in MOS knowledge he overcompensates with by his extreme professionalism, incredible work ethic and his unrelenting drive to set the best example for his Marines and for his family.

Upon checking in to the Division, Nick was asked what professional goals he had. His response was "to develop strong chiefs who embody the overall Marine concept", and to "pay it forward, continuing to seek out talent the way I was brought up" in the community. For the last year and a half, he has done exactly that and is a rising star in the community.

Nick and his wife JudyAnne have three children: Jovan, Romance, and Ana.



# Warfighter Focus Continued

transmission dynamometer also successfully tested a MT653 LAV transmission.

The exercise, overall, was a huge success since this was the first time these dynos were deployed to a field exercise and actually executed their intended function of being “expeditionary”.

Deployment readiness is a huge focus for Marines and completing this exercise gave the Marines confidence in their equipment which resulted in the Company and Battalion being more prepared for the fight tonight.

The success of this exercise, and the lessons learned, has the Marines of GSM itching to get back out to the field and continue sharpening their technical expertise, away from the comforts that reside in the garrison environment.



## A Message From the USMC GOMA Board

The GOMA is now in its 11th year of existence. There has been a lot of efforts by many key supporters over the years to grow the Association and we send a challenge out to all of you to start getting more involved. Right now, here are some immediate needs:

GOMA Secretary is needed - this position is not a difficult one, but has been vacant for a few months now. Need an active member to contact us with a desire to step in until the next elections.

2022 Scholarship Awards Chairman - need someone to step up in February 2022 to volunteer to be the focal point of accepting applications and presenting to the board their recommendations that

will be awarded in August 2022. The application and instructions just need to be modified from last year and we are expecting this to be a pretty seamless process. Per our ByLaws, all positions need to be filled by active members.

2022 USMC GOMA elections - this will take place in November 2022 and we need an election Chairman to manage this. We have a proven process using Survey Monkey and again not a real difficult process, but needs to be handled by someone who is not on the board or on the ballot. MOST IMPORTANT!!! The following positions will need to be filled and the ballot must be completed and distributed by early August. These are

2 years terms and must be filled by Active Regular Members. Chairman, Vice Chairman, Secretary, Treasurer.

The current Chairman continues to serve for a period of one year as the Past Chairman to assist in the transition, and in the case of the current Treasurer, he will stay engaged with whoever takes over to also assist and answer any questions as full financial control is turned over. We are also working on turnover folders which will be completed well before this years elections. I can't express enough how important this is as the current board members will not be extending their service and the GOMA is ready for fresh ideas and growth.

# IN MEMORIAM

SSgt Valente Cantu Jr: June 21, 1978 - November 29, 2021



It is with a heavy heart that we must say farewell to an Ordnance Brother who left this world too young. "Val" as he was known to family and close friends was born June 21, 1978 and left us on November 29, 2021. He was living in Houston TX with this wife Veronica, Son Ronald and Daughter at the time of his passing. Funeral Services were officiated by Father Rafael Querobin and he was laid to rest at the Houston National Cemetery with Military Honors.

SSgt Valente Cantu Jr/ 2147 had a very diverse military career, serving at 1st LAR, SOI West, 3rd LAR, Mar Det APG MD, and finally 3rd LAR. He touched Marine's lives at every place he served, but many would remember him as a formal school instructor at our Ordnance Schoolhouse teaching hundreds of entry level and career



students. He was one of the best technical instructors at the schoolhouse teaching the most technical curriculum of fire control and weapon system components of the LAV systems. He was a stern passionate individual that took his job and the training of others seriously as he understood the importance of the attention to details from his combat experience, but also knew how to have fun as well.



# GOMA Events: ORDNANCE SOCIAL



From left to right, Bob Hoffman, Charles Bushnell, Kathy Bushnell, Jeremy Flannery, Mike Brown, Andy Anderson, John Cotton, Sherri Spooner, Brian Spooner, Tim Williams & Andrew Van Hoogmoed (Not Pictured – Greg Frich)

On 9 Dec 2021 an Ordnance Social event was held at Locos Grill & Pub in Albany Ga. Updates on the State of the GOMA were provided by Charles Bushnell, but more importantly, the conversations and getting to see old acquaintances and meeting new ones as we shared a meal and drinks are always the highlight of events such as these. There were many who were sad that they could not make it and were missed, but the group here is ready to make this a quarterly event and hopefully double the attendance on the next one. Remember to send us in the pictures of your events even if it is just two of you meeting!



Bob Hoffman and Andy Anderson



Greg Frich, Mike Brown and Charles Bushnell

# Comedy Corner

## Climb the Flagpole

Some senior commanders from the Army, Navy and Marine Corps were arguing about who had the bravest troops.

They decided to settle the dispute using an enlisted man from each branch.

The army general called a private over and ordered him to climb to the top of the base flagpole, then let go with both hands and salute. The private quickly complied.

Next, the admiral ordered a sailor to climb the pole, polish

the brass knob at the top, salute smartly and jump off. The sailor did as he was told and landed on the concrete below.

Finally, the marine was told to do exactly the same as the army and navy men but in full battle gear, pack filled with brick and loaded weapon carried high. He took one look at the major general and said: "You're out of your mind, sir."

The marine commander turned to the others and said: "Now that's guts!"

## More GOMA Events

### MARSOC Golf Tournament

Submitted by CWO2 Jason C Fox



In November, the Ordnance Marines of MARSOC took a much deserved day off from the armory to participate in a golf tournament at Paradise Point Golf Course located aboard Camp Lejeune.

The friendly competition tightened the bonds of the armory and the ordnance community. The

winner of tournament was the Chiefs Team consisting of MSgt David Smith, GySgt Miguel Garcia, SSgt Ronald Poff, and Sgt Charles Mowery.

Other tournament winners were CWO3 Adam Brooks taking the closest to the pin trophy and Sgt Brent Mintz with the longest drive.

### WELCOME ABOARD TO OUR NEWEST GOMA MEMBERS!



It is always a pleasure to recognize our newest members! Semper Fidelis!

- Jeffrey Backus (Lifetime)
- Carlos Farnsworth (Lifetime)
- Nicholas DeSimone (New Annual)
- Kenneth Kleveta (New Annual)
- Marco Nunez (New Annual)
- Vince Toves (New Annual)
- David Veros (New Annual)
- Samuel Gilley (Renewal Annual)
- Kyle Hall (Renewal Annual)
- Christopher Henry (Renewal Annual x 2 years)
- Douglas Mayorga (Renewal Annual)
- Ashley Rose (Renewal Annual)
- Chris Almendariz (Honorary)
- Ethan Auffhammer (Honorary)
- Jared Collins (Honorary)
- Josiah Funk (Honorary)
- Claudia Glodz (Honorary)
- McCoy Herold (Honorary)
- Sean Holk (Honorary)
- Mitchell Hopkins (Honorary)
- Justin Hurley (Honorary)
- Brandon Kadlec (Honorary)
- Gandin McCaffrey (Honorary)
- Gage Morgan (Honorary)
- Joshua Penrod (Honorary)
- Aaron Raines (Honorary)
- Evan Sierra (Honorary)
- Dinah Stives (Honorary)
- Nathan Thompson (Honorary)
- Malachi Torres (Honorary)



*"...Disseminating knowledge of Ground Ordnance Maintenance among Marines, to provide professional development opportunities for Marines, to foster the spirit and preserve the traditions of the Marine Corps..."*

## GOMA Scholarship Sponsors and Program



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**Founded in 2009**  
**Employees in 13 States**  
**Supports the USMC, USN, VA, USCG, Army, and Commercial**

One-hundred percent of your donation will go to support the annual USMC GOMA Scholarship awards program. GOMA is a 501(c)(3) and donations are tax deductible.

Please include your name, mailing address, and any Company Logo or business card so we can recognize your generosity on our Official Website and in our Quarterly Newsletter!

To make a donation, please send a check or money order to:

**USMC GOMA Scholarship Awards Program**  
PO Box 7111  
Woodbridge, VA 22195

(Contact the Association Treasurer for EFT or other deposit information if needed)

For more information contact by email: [scholarship@usmcgoma.org](mailto:scholarship@usmcgoma.org) or to the Association Treasurer Charles Bushnell [treasurer@usmcgoma.org](mailto:treasurer@usmcgoma.org)

If sending by mail, please write in the memo it is for the Scholarship Program.

If you wish to send via PayPal, please use the organizational acct under [treasurer@usmcgoma.org](mailto:treasurer@usmcgoma.org) but use the send to a friend option instead of good and services.

A special thanks to our Corporate Sponsor Amanda Riley, RF Strategies For her continued commitment to Support.

Please keep an eye out for sponsors and events that can generate funds for next year's scholarships!

# What Does A New Member Get When They Join?

Whether you become a Life or Annual Member, you will receive:

- GOMA Coin
- GOMA Lapel Pin
- Membership Card
- Members only access to the USMCGOMA Website
- Lifetime Members will also receive a Certificate

JOIN TODAY AT [WWW.USMCGOMA.ORG](http://WWW.USMCGOMA.ORG) AND SUPPORT YOUR GROUND ORDNANCE MAINTENANCE COMMUNITY!

## Ordnance Key Billets

### HQMC/LPM-2:

LtCol Ryan Cleveland  
MGySgt Joe Kennedy

### HQMC/ CD&I

Capt Jason Beck-21XX Occupational Field Manager

### MARFORPAC:

Maj Michael Bressler/MGySgt Shawn Young (soon to be MGySgt Mainor Carpiobran)

### MARFORCOM:

Maj Zoltar Mendoza (Soon to be Capt Nicky Jones)

### MARFORRES:

Vacant; LtCol Christian Galbraith/  
MGySgt Sean Dawson

### MARFORSOC:

Maj Michael McMillan/  
MSgt Karin Monaco

**I MEF:** Maj Douglas Mayorga/

MGySgt Dee Harris

- 1st MarDiv: Maj Nathaniel Crouch /MGySgt Brent Levell
- 1st MLG: MGySgt Jose Balboa (soon to be MGySgt Juan Mora)

**II MEF:** LtCol Michael Lukkes/  
MGySgt Melvin Venable

- 2d MARDIV: Maj Jason Price/  
MGySgt John Pierce
- 2d MLG: Maj Gilbert Woods/  
MGySgt Clovis Johnson

**III MEF:** Maj Mark Oldroyd /  
MGySgt Juan Mora (soon to be  
MGySgt Kyle Hall)

- 3d MARDIV: Maj Aaron Rancoes/MGySgt Chuck Thompson
- 3rd MLG: MGySgt Spencer Thomas

# Monthly Meetings

The Board of Directors holds a board meeting (Conference Call) the second Wednesday of each month at 1630 Pacific Coast Time.

We are asking you to join us by calling in to the following numbers:

848-220-3300

Access Code 306434

It is important that we know what you want and desire from the Ground Ordnance Maintenance Association and look forward to hearing your ideas on making this organization grow.

## Fair Winds and Following Seas...

We all hope you have enjoyed reading our EIGHTH quarterly publication, and bringing in the new year!

If you have pictures or articles of interest you would like to see published, please contact any of the board members. This can include promotions of your Marines, events, or awards!

## Mission Statement

The purpose of the USMC Ground Ordnance Maintenance Association is to support the Marine Corps by disseminating knowledge of Ground Ordnance Maintenance among Marines, to provide professional development opportunities for Marines, to foster the spirit and preserve the traditions of the Marine Corps to offer special benefits to USMC GOMA members!

USMC GOMA

P.O. Box 7111 Woodbridge, VA 22195



<https://www.usmcgoma.org>



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# United States Marine Corps Ground Ordnance Maintenance Association

**"Custodis pro Ferrum"**  
**Keepers of the Sword**

## SELF MEMBERSHIP FORM

**Membership Levels:** There are various membership levels and options which are open to Marines currently serving, or having formerly honorably served, in the active or reserve components of the United States Marine Corps; who have been awarded a ground ordnance maintenance Military Occupational Specialty (MOS) by competent authority in accordance with Marine Corps directives in effect at the time of their service, and have honorably served as a Ground Ordnance Maintenance Marine.

In addition, there are also Associate Member options that open to all members of any USMC MOS, U.S. Military Service, or family members of an active GOMA member.

**Lifetime (\$225.00) or Lifetime Associate (\$225.00)** Lifetime membership is a one-time cost with no further dues ever needed. Over the years as costs rise, so will dues. This one time designation is currently being offered as a great value.

**1 year (\$30.00); 2 years (\$55.00); 3 years (75.00):** These options are for both regular and associate members

**Recruitment Incentive:** Any active member who recruits two new members in any given year will be given a one year gift membership that can be used either for their own annual membership or to be used as a gift membership to another person of their choice. (*Must* meet all membership qualifications).

I certify that I meet Ordnance membership requirements. or  I certify that I meet Associate membership requirements.

I am/was U.S. Military:  Enlisted  Officer **Choose Membership:**  Life  Annual

For mail in Annual Renewals please check here:  add membership number: \_\_\_\_\_ update information below and include check or money order.

### Member Information:

Rank/Prefix \_\_\_\_\_ MOS (If applicable): \_\_\_\_\_

First Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Middle Name \_\_\_\_\_

Last Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Suffix: \_\_\_\_\_

Date of Birth: \_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_

Address 1: \_\_\_\_\_

Address 2: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_

State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code: \_\_\_\_\_

Contact Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

E-Mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Pay Grade: \_\_\_\_\_

Military Branch: \_\_\_\_\_

Service Status: \_\_\_\_\_

Referred By: \_\_\_\_\_

### Make check or money order payable to:

USMC GOMA (Write the membership level on memo line of the check.)

### Mail completed membership form and payment to:

USMC GOMA, PO Box 7111, Woodbridge, VA. 22195, U.S.A.