

May 2025

Quarterly Newsletter of the USMC Ground Ordnance Maintenance Association

The Ordnance Bomb



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Greetings, GOMA!

I hope this message finds everyone well, in good spirits, and ready for Summer! For those of you who may not know me, my name is Obed. I grew up in Arizona, where I enjoyed all the outdoor activities the state has to offer—camping, biking, and, of course, summer days at the pool. In 2010, I joined the Marines and have had the opportunity to serve at Light Armored Vehicle Training Company at the School of Infantry – West, 1st Light Armored Reconnaissance Battalion, and Fort Gregg-Adams, VA. I also spent some time in Phoenix, AZ while I was trying out the whole Recruiter gig. I figured becoming a Warrant Officer was a better choice which led me back to Camp Pendleton, CA where I've had the privilege of serving within the MLG and The Blue Diamond.

I married my wife, Candee, in 2014, and we have two wonderful daughters, Alisabeth (9) and Evelyn (6). This summer, we'll be heading East to Camp Lejeune, and we couldn't be more excited about the move. In my free time, I love spending time with my family—whether it's being outdoors, playing games, or having a movie night. I'm also a big fan of cooking, grilling, and smoking food. Not saying I'm a big deal, but my kids have dubbed my taco recipe as "World-Famous."

My first experience with GOMA dates to 2012, when I was assigned to 1st LAR. I remember seeing a GOMA newsletter posted on a read board, but I never took the time to read it or understand what the organization was all about. Fast forward to 2021, when I was rein-



troduced to the Association and became a Lifetime member. Since then, I've served as the Membership Chairman, which eventually led me to my current role as Chairman. Looking back on that moment in 2012, I realize it was a missed opportunity to get involved, but I am here now — honored and privileged to serve as the GOMA Chairman!

Here are the latest updates: Website

First things, first: A heartfelt thank you to Lifetime Member T. Malcolm for his invaluable support in helping the GOMA board members manage our website. As we continue to build and improve this resource, we want to increase traf-

Chairman
Obed Macias
Chairman@usmcgoma.org

fic to the official GOMA site. Your input is essential—what would you like to see featured or improved? Let us know!

Donations

We've added a donation feature directly on the GOMA website homepage and created a QR code (featured on our flyer) to make our fundraising efforts more accessible. I hope you'll use these tools to help expand our reach within your networks.

Profile Update

Please take the time to ensure your information on the

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Custodis Pro Ferrum

Your New GOMA Board



Vice Chairman
Dylan Higgins
ViceChairman@usmcgoma.org

Hello GOMA Community,
Greetings! My name is Dylan Higgins. I was born and raised in Oklahoma, where I developed a deep appreciation for the outdoors through activities like hunting, fishing, hiking, and all things water-related. In 2021, I proudly enlisted in the United States Marine Corps. Over the past four years, I've had the privilege of serving with 1st Maintenance Battalion and 1st Distribution Support Battalion. It has been an incredibly rewarding journey, and I'm honored to serve alongside my fel-

low Marines.

I've been married to my amazing wife, Christina, since 2021. She currently serves as a Logistics Officer in the United States Army. When we're both off duty, we love spending quality time together surfing, hiking, participating in Bible studies, working out, or simply enjoying a good movie at home. I also have a passion for cooking and regularly smoke meats—especially brisket and salmon. To me, smoking

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Secretary
Adam Thomas
Secretary@usmcgoma.org

Greetings GOMA,
My name is Adam Thomas, and I'm originally from Bardstown, Kentucky. Growing up, I worked a variety of jobs and enjoyed hunting, fishing, riding dirt bikes, and playing baseball. I enlisted in the Marine Corps in January 2021 after graduating high school early, thanks to the college courses I had taken.
My first unit was SOI-East, where I served as an armorer. I was later promoted to Corporal and became the section head of the heavy weapons section. I then PCA'd to

3/2 and was promoted to Sergeant, serving as the Maintenance Chief throughout our Unit Deployment Program (UDP).

While on UDP, I met then-GOMA Treasurer CWO Daley, who introduced me to the association and encouraged me to get involved. That conversation led me to join GOMA and eventually take on the role of Secretary.

After the deployment, I PCS'd to Fort Gregg-Adams, where I

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Treasurer
Jacob Negley
Treasurer@usmcgoma.org

Hey everyone,
I'm Jacob, a new addition to GOMA, and I'm excited to be a part of it.
Although I grew up in Maryland, I now call Texas home; you can't beat the wide-open skies and beautiful sunsets! I joined the Marine Corps in 2011 to travel, and I've been blessed to do just that; from Okinawa to Korea, North Carolina to Norway, Fort Gregg-Adams (Fort Lee), Waco, and Oceanside, you name it. All were amazing places

with great memories and experiences.

In 2017, I married my wife (and travel partner), Angela, and there's never been a dull moment since then. We've had a lot of adventures up and down the California coast, but we find that we're being called to Quantico this summer. I'm a big fan of nature in all its beauty, so we'll probably get out to the Blue Ridge Mountains sometime while

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Warfighter Focus

THE FUTURE OF DRONE WARFARE AND THE MARINE CORPS

By Sgt Miller, Logan – Electro-Optical Ordnance Repairer, 5th Marine Regiment

As we witness daily the progression of the Ukraine-Russia war, we see example after example of an entirely new generation of tools and tactics being used to fight off the recurring waves of Russian aggression. To properly align ourselves with the strategic needs of FY2030, we must embrace this new technology more rapidly than the Corps is traditionally accustomed to.

Drones offer us not only a way to mount explosives as a means to take down larger vehicles or squad-sized elements, but they offer provide us an advantage in the way we conduct ourselves in an expeditionary setting. Drones in the first stages of setting up an expeditionary base provide the average marine with a bird's-eye view of what positions could be advantageous to set up a FOB, can provide instantaneous 360-degree security while posing less risk to the freedom-loving Servicemembers we call our family. Even in uncommon locations like the crash fire rescue community, drones can be used, such as using a FLIR-capable drone to figure out the hottest zone of a crash and deploy a solution in a tighter space than we could ever get a Marine into. With the seemingly endless possibilities, sometimes we need to step back and think like a bored Lance Corporal, letting our mind wander into the possibilities that no one has come up with yet, let alone tried to implement in a combat zone.

The quicker we implement



Drone with RPG payload rigged for FPV strike

drones, the faster we can figure out what works and what doesn't, what risks we take, and which ones we mitigate. I'm sure the community is already taking steps to ensure we are finding our weaknesses in our ground systems, but what is the broader picture of logistics after a counterattack against us? What happens when a convoy is hit by an airborne IED, which our current minesweepers were not designed to combat? We need to implement more drones, quicker, in a conscious effort to gather those data points and look for the solutions our Marines' lives are dependent upon. We need to employ drones of various speeds, shapes, and sizes,

noise levels, and operating heights to different battalions, and create an anti-drone warfare doctrine. I personally anticipate the comeback of shotguns on the battlefield, as I'm sure the Marines would be actively looking for any opportunity at skeet practice, but that's just my solution. If we are not constantly practicing a level of force-on-force outside-the-box thinking after every training evolution, we are doing a direct disservice to the families of our service members. It would be my personal recommendation that we ensure the drones we buy are foreign and domestically made to get a broad spectrum of what we are up against. For

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instance, what if an adversary's drone was limited in range by echoing frequencies off a common radio we already have? What if blunt force damage via birdshot is more effective? What are we doing when drones get to a high enough speed that it's beating the average reaction time? We need to answer these questions quicker, and with a dataset that is not solely reliant on any one battalion's off-handed data from the 400 series ranges in 29 palms. We cannot afford to be squeezing this research during whitespace training in an ITX, WTI, etc.

Overall, we have seen the inklings of what I have laid out above. Currently, V25 is exploring the use of radio frequency controlled anti-drone guns down under at Marine Rotational Force, Darwin, Australia. As I am sure most battalions are doing their independent research, we still need to have more testing. As I'm sure every Marine that is worth their salt has heard, "There is an adversary out there that is training harder than you." It would be unwise to just throw this common saying to the wind. I can almost guarantee that a peer-level adversary nation is practicing how to attack our convoys; we need to practice the defense of our assets, and we need to have a doctrine to base ourselves on. Drone



BLT 1/5 utilizing an anti-drone weapon system

technology is incredibly capable, but it all depends on whose hands it's in. We need to develop technology on two fronts, both offense and defense. I think personally that we are doing a great job at developing the systems to be able to drop grenades and to do partial reconnaissance, but we can always expand our realm.

Finally, as Ground Ordnance Maintainers, we should always be working at the forefront of new technology comes out. We have so much talent within the community, even down at the lowest level. I promise you, the average armorer is smart enough to know how to build and fix the drop mechanism that we are currently developing as a Corps. Why wouldn't we allow our Marines who are specifical-



L-MADIS: ULTV-mounted anti drone technology

ly trained in the repair of optics to dictate what the repair of a FPV (first-person view) drone looks like? We are already doing a great job at building up the drone attachments via the fantastic work our machinists are doing with 3D printing. Just because the word "ground" is in

our name as a community, who is to say that doesn't mean everything in the low-altitude space? I hope this short editorial has given some insight into drone implementation and where we need to be for the next war of tomorrow.

Mentorship and Brotherhood: The Power of Marine Camaraderie

By Obed Macias

When you serve in this gun club, the bonds you form with your fellow Marines are unlike any other. They are forged in the crucible of shared challenges, triumphs, and sacrifices. As Ground Ordnance Maintenance Marines, the experiences we share are unique. We work with some of the most intricate and demanding equipment on the battlefield, ensuring that vehicles, weapons, and other systems are ready to support the mission. It's easy to get caught up in life: careers, families, and the demands of everyday life can sometimes leave little room for staying connected.

But the truth is, those bonds formed in the maintenance bays, ordnance shops, armories, the field, and forward deployed areas are vital. Whether it was a mentor who helped you shape your career or a Marine who had your back in tough times, these bonds are more than just nostalgic reminders; they provide a sense of belonging and are crucial for continued support and personal growth. In a world that can feel disconnected, the camaraderie of old military friends and mentors reminds you that you're never truly alone.



(Left to Right) Capt Castilla, Maj Arellano, Macias, Capt Evers, LtCol Mayorga, Capt Hoskins, Capt Hernandez, Capt Grace, Capt Shekhter

While the old saying, “Marines aren’t happy unless they’re complaining,” often rings true, there’s one thing I can’t complain about: the incredible people I’ve had the privilege of meeting throughout my career. As I reflect on the various units I’ve served with, I also remember the Ordnance Marines (and a Radio Operator) whose friendships and mentorship have made a lasting impact on my life.

The first person who comes to mind is Bret Emery, an LAV Mechanic I served with at LAVTC.

If we weren’t grabbing a bite at Colima’s or Zenko Sushi, we were probably out for a run or hitting the gym. Later, at 1st LAR, Marines like Alex Snyder and GySgt Cary Gross became some of my closest friends and most valuable resources. Before 1st LAR, I hadn’t worked in an armory since the schoolhouse, but thanks to then-Sgt Gross, I always had someone to turn to when I was in over my head. Alex Snyder and I were assigned to Delta Company, specifically to one of the LAV-Ls (Log). During our 15th MEU deploy-

ment, we spent countless hours in LAV engine bays. However, what stands out the most are the times we tried not to laugh as our Maintenance Chief, GySgt Rafferty (RIP), tore apart the back of the Log searching for a crush washer he was certain he’d placed there. Oh, and did I mention he did all of this on the side of the road in Djibouti, Africa? Those were some good times. From my time at the Ordnance Schoolhouse, CWO Chris Chamberlain and Geoff Gascoigne stand out. De-

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(Left to Right) Scott Stolaas, Macias, GySgt Almaklani

spite the challenges we faced there, these two kept me focused, imparting valuable lessons about leadership and mental toughness. Lastly, for those who've served on Recruiting Duty, you know it's not always easy. The days were long, and the work was tough, but knowing Marines like then-GySgt Yeyah Almaklani were right there with me gave me the strength to push through and succeed.

Throughout my career, I've been fortunate to be mentored by several selfless individuals who shared their wisdom and helped shape my skills. Working alongside seasoned Marines, learning from their experiences, and adopting their approaches to problem-solving and leadership has been invaluable.

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1st Marine Division Chili Cookoff and Cornhole Tournament

On November 22, 2024, at Lake O'Neil, Blue Diamond Ordnance hosted an exciting and friendly tournament featuring cornhole, chili cook off and raffles. This popular event attracted over 70 Marines and their spouses from across the division, all eager to showcase their cornhole throwing skills and chili cooking talents. Beyond the friendly competition, the day served as a celebration of the Marines unity, brotherhood and unwavering commitment to service creating a great experience for everyone.

The day began with an energetic and intense Cornhole tournament, where participants put their skills to the test. As the matches progressed, the competition grew more intense, with each team striving to outscore their opponents and secure a spot in the next round. Every team gave it their best and impressed the spectators, but as the rounds continued, one team stood out by winning every match, ultimately claiming victory in the final. This impressive team consisted of Warrant Officer Mendez and his wife, Grace. Their unmatched performance and consistent wins led them to claim the championship in the final round. The determination and camaraderie among the players added to the thrill of the event, making it a memorable event.

After the Cornhole tournament, the Marines gathered for the highly anticipated main event – the chili cookoff. The cookoff featured five competitors,

each preparing a different type of chili. These ranged from traditional Texas style chili to unique variations that included exotic ingredients like elk from Colorado and Wyoming. The competitors enjoyed sharing the backstories of how their chili was made and what made each one unique. Marines slowly sampled the chili some going back for second time to carefully examine the taste before casting their vote. Once the Marines finalized casting their votes it was clear that the winner for the best chili was Gunnery Sergeant Knodel taking the chef trophy and bragging rights for the year. The camaraderie and socializing of the Marines added a festive atmosphere as everyone enjoyed not only the food but also the sense of



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MEMBER **Sgt Colin R. Staples** SPOTLIGHT



FROM STUDENT TO INSTRUCTOR: A JOURNEY AT FORT GREGG-ADAMS

Transitioning from the Fleet Marine Force (FMF) to becoming an instructor at Fort Gregg-Adams, Virginia was both an exciting and nerve-wracking experience. Even before requesting a Permanent Change of Station to the Military Occupational Specialty (MOS) 2111 schoolhouse, I felt uncertain about what to expect beyond my primary role as an instructor. However, the transition was made seamless thanks to the support of experienced peers and the structured training courses designed to develop new instructors.

One of the most impactful experiences I've had since arriving here was one of the required platform instructor courses called Facilitate Learning and Experience (FLEX). This course provided a wide array of essential tools and techniques to the learner the ability to tailor their platform instruction to different learning styles. Whether teaching a specific weapon system or leading a broader course, FLEX helped refine my ability to engage and guide students effectively. FLEX assisted in reminding me to put myself in the students shoes and to intertwine engaging MOS driven content with real world experiences to aid each students individual learning styles.



Beyond classroom instruction, serving as a Faculty Advisor (FA) for the up-and-coming 2100 students added another layer of responsibility. This role involves mentoring and leading junior Marines—anywhere from eight to twenty at a time. We're not only mentoring the students through their MOS school, we're preparing them for the FMF through physical training, uniform inspections, and daily guidance. While challenging, this opportunity to shape the next generation

of Marines and watch them grow into future leaders has been one of the most rewarding aspects of the job. Marines come from all walks of life, and to see Marines I have personally shaped and molded into a well-rounded Small Arms Repairer, who are now more than capable of overcoming and achieving any task given to them is what drives me to become a better instructor and mentor.

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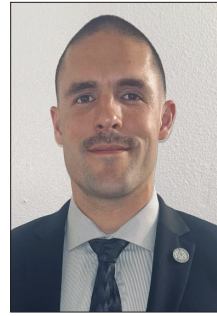
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Another key advantage of being an instructor is the collaboration with staff. The diverse range of experience within the schoolhouse provides invaluable opportunities for professional growth. Whether expanding technical knowledge on weapon systems, gaining insights into armory operations, or learning the administrative side of the MOS, the collective expertise of fellow instructors strengthens both individual development and the schoolhouse.

Becoming a Formal Schoolhouse Instructor has been a defining chapter in my career. My experience has enhanced my leadership skills as an FA, deepened my knowledge of the MOS, and allowed me to contribute directly to curriculum development—ultimately shaping the future of Marines heading to the FMF. The experience has been both challenging and rewarding, and I am grateful for the opportunity to give back to the institution that once trained me.

Higgins Bio Continued

meat is a dance of flavors, a symphony of smoke and spice.



My connection with GOMA began in 2021 when I received an honorary subscription after graduating as the Honor Graduate from the Small Arms Repair Technician Course at Fort Gregg-Adams, Virginia. Inspired by GOMA's mission, I quickly became more involved and was later voted onto the board, where I served a two-year term as Secretary.

Following that, I ran for and was elected to my current role as Vice Chairman—a position I am deeply honored to hold.

Thank you for the opportunity to be part of this incredible community. I look forward to continuing to serve and support GOMA's mission alongside all of you.

Negley Bio Continued

we're there. Aside from that, I love working on my car, going running, and riding jet skis.



I heard about GOMA for some time now, but never fully got what it was about.

Between the GOMAG and the dinners, the awards and the camaraderie, I found that it grew on me.

I joined GOMA just this year for one key aspect of the association - fraternity. Brotherhood, professionalism, and community, rolled into one, and I'm glad to be a part of it. I also recently accepted the role as Treasurer, as I'm eager to leverage my talents to help the organization. It's an honor being a part of the group, and I hope to make an impact wherever I can.

Cookoff Continued

community.

Overall, this event was a resounding success, blending friendly competition, delicious food, and shared sense of unity among the Marines and their families. From the Cornhole tournament to the flavorful chili cookoff and the lively raffle, every moment reflected the camaraderie and sense of belonging. This gathering not only highlighted the talents and teamwork of those involved but also strengthened the bonds of fellowship, leaving everyone looking forwards to future events that celebrate the spirit of service.



Comedy

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*"...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..."*

Chairman Comments Continued

GOMA website is correct, especially your email address. All official correspondence from GOMA will be disseminated from the website. You won't receive our emails if your information is not correct.

Support from Business Owners:

Are you a business owner? Consider making a donation on behalf of your business. In return, we'll feature your business information in our newsletter and website—a great way to support GOMA while gaining visibility. Please reach out to me directly to discuss. chairman@usmcgoma.org.

GOMA Gear

We're exploring the launch of official GOMA merchandise through our website. Follow this link to take the survey <https://www.usmcgoma.org/goma-gear-survey/>.

Academic Year 2025-2026 Scholarships

Applications for this year's scholarship are now open on the GOMA website: (<https://www.usmcgoma.org/scholarships/>). Currently, our scholarship fund is expected to make the selection process competitive, with two to three scholarships anticipated for award this year. However, fundraising efforts are underway, and additional contributions could increase the number of scholarships we are able to offer. If we receive more applications than we can fund, the Scholarship Committee will evaluate the submitted essays to select the awardees based on merit. Application

deadline: 15 June 2025 - 11:59 PM, PST.

As I close this out, I would like you all to know that it is both an honor and a privilege to serve as Chairman of the Ground Ordnance Maintenance Association. Over the years, GOMA has proudly awarded scholarships, contributed to events around the globe, and recognized our outstanding Marines through the Annual GOMA Awards. These initiatives are made possible by the support of our members and their commitment to our shared mission. While strengthening our recruitment efforts remains key to our future growth, we cannot overlook the incredible power of the ground ordnance maintenance community. Reflect on the impact GOMA has had on you and imagine what we can achieve together. A financial contribution to GOMA will help grow scholarships, elevate events, expand awards, and launch new initiatives. Every donation, no matter the size, helps propel us forward. I've put my money where my mouth is because I believe in what GOMA is all about and have donated \$50. My challenge to you is to match or top my donation! Help us reach \$1,000 this year. To donate, follow this link: <https://www.usmcgoma.org/donations/donate/#top>. Thank you to our generous donors who have already contributed to this effort!

The strength of GOMA lies in the commitment of each of you. Together, we'll continue to build and strengthen this Association. Thank you for your ongoing dedication to GOMA

The Ordnance Bomb Mentorship Continued



(Left to Right) Maj Arellano, LtCol Mayorga, GySgt Negley, WO Thompson, Macias, MGySgt Levell, CWO Rogers, Capt Londa (0402)

able. These lessons have shaped my career and influenced the growth of the ground ordnance community and our officer corps. As I continue to advance, the wisdom shared with me will stay with me for a lifetime.

While the list of Marines who have mentored me is long, I'll simply say this: I wouldn't be where I am today without your support.

In today's world, the sense of community can often feel like it's fading. With the demands of modern life, it's easy to drift apart from those who were once central to our everyday routine. However, the reality is that there is power in staying connected. Whether we're calling someone to vent about our frustrations or simply checking in, these connections provide us with

stability. They remind us that no matter what life throws our way, we are part of something bigger—something that has endured and will continue to thrive.

The bonds I've built with these Marines remain strong to this day. Whether it's sharing a meal, catching up through a call or text, or competing on a fitness app, we're still connected in one way or another. So, if you needed one, here's your sign: reach out to that old mentor who helped you sharpen your skills or the fellow Marine you shared countless hours with. Send a message, make a call, or schedule a meet-up. It's not just about reliving memories; it's about maintaining our network of support for today and tomorrow.



Macias and Geoff Gascoigne



Thomas Bio Continued

currently serve as an Infantry Weapons Maintenance Instructor. In my free time, I go to the gym daily and continue working on my kickboxing and jiu-jitsu skills, which I enjoy

incorporating into my MCMAP instruction.

I'm also pursuing my bachelor's degree and hope to complete it within the next two years.

Custodis Pro Ferrum

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 AND SUPPORT YOUR GROUND ORDNANCE MAINTENANCE COMMUNITY!

Ordnance Key Billets

HQMC/LPM-2:

Vacant-LPM-2 Ground Equipment Commodity Management Section head (LPM-2)
 MGySgt Peter Charland
 Occupational Field Manager
 Commodity Management Section (LPM-2)

HQMC/ CD&I

Maj Levi Trimble
 Capabilities Integration Officer

MARFORPAC:

Maj Joshua Ray

MARFORCOM:

Maj Dustin Hamm

MARFORRES:

LtCol Jason Price/
 MGySgt Jason Beall

MARFORSOC:

Maj Jason Beken /
 MSgt David E. Smith

I MEF:

 LtCol Douglas Mayorga/
MGySgt Z. Lance Miller

- 1st MarDiv: Maj Maj Mario Arellano/MGySgt Brent Levell
- 1st MLG: Maj Lucas Tuning/MGySgt Juan Mora

II MEF:

 LtCol Mark Oldroyd /
MGySgt David W. Smith

- 2d MARDIV: Maj Nicky Jones / MGySgt A. Fredo Uribe
- 2d MLG: MGySgt Byron Jacobson

III MEF:

 LtCol Glen Pond /
MGySgt Joshua Felshaw

- 3d MARDIV: Maj Aaron Ranclous/MGySgt Chuck Thompson
- 3rd MLG: Maj Billy Quinn/MGySgt Brian Laudencia

Monthly Meetings

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.

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

Join us by calling in to the following numbers:
 848-220-3300
 Access Code 306434

Fair Winds and Following Seas...

We all hope you have enjoyed reading our quarterly publication!

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



<https://www.usmcgoma.org>



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<https://www.facebook.com/USMCGOMA>

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Your support today will help fund our scholarships and initiate exciting new initiatives.

Help us meet our goal of raising \$1,000!

DONATE TO GOMA HERE



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!