

Volume 4, Issue 2 | 1 April 2022

Quarterly Newsletter of the USMC Ground Ordnance Maintenance Association

# The Ordnance Bomb

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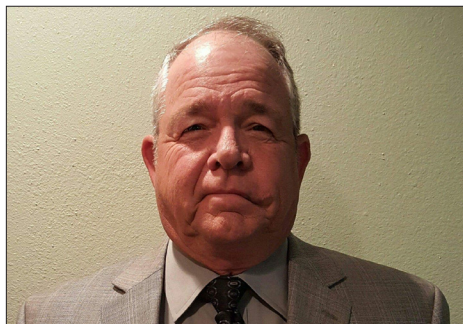
**GOMA Board Elections**



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



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Chairman@usmcgoma.org



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

As we move into the summer months and as our country is slowly getting back to normal, I hope this newsletter finds everyone and their families well.

I want to let everyone know that our GOMA association is healthy as we continue to gain new membership each month. I want to thank Charles Bushnell and Mike Lewis for working to get out FY2021 taxes completed and submitted to the IRS on time.

We are currently accepting applications for this fiscal year's GOMA Scholarships. Over the past few months we have heard that last year the word about scholarships applications did not get out to everyone and we want to ensure this doesn't happen this year. Therefore, we are talking about scholarships in this newsletter, on our GOMA Web Page and in our monthly meetings. We also have passed the word to our Senior Ordnance Active Duty Leadership, so they can get the word out in their Areas of Responsibilities. We are hoping this year to give out seven \$500 scholarships to GOMA family members. If we can get more donations the amount of scholarships we give out could increase.

Bottom-line is please help us get the word out and help us provide this money to our hard working students. You can find the applications on the GOMA Web-Page or contact any of the GOMA leadership and we will send you an applications. All applications are due 31 June, so get those applications in as soon as possible.

We continue to look for GOMA members who are looking to volunteer for one of the GOMA Leadership positions. We recently had a few people throw their names in as possible candidates, but we still need others, because in November we will have opening for the Chairman, Vice Chairman, Treasury and Secretary. I cannot say this enough, but without people willing to volunteer their time we cannot continue with the great things the GOMA have been doing over the years.

Our monthly meeting continues to go on the second Wednesday of each month. We changed the time of the start of the meeting back to 1630 PST with the hopes of getting more east coast members to call in. Our next meeting will go on 13 Apr and the dial in information is 848-220-3300, Conf. Code is 306434.

I want to thank the active duty leadership for helping us obtain articles and stories for this month's newsletter. There is nothing better than seeing great stories and accomplishments on what are Ordnance Marines are doing in the field and in garrison.

We are always open to suggestions, thoughts, comments, concerns or ideas on way we can improve not only our newsletter, but our website and the GOMA as a whole. I hope everyone is enjoying the warmer weather and please keep our service men and women, along with their families in your thoughts and prayers. Stay motivated and I look forward to talking with everyone in the future.

Custodis Pro Ferrum

# Blast From The Past

## BEHIND EVERY PICTURE IS A STORY, AND A LANDMINE

Article written by By CWO-5 Wayne Ryther (Ret)

My tractor, LVTE-1 mine clearance, H-24, April 8th, 1967 An Hoa. Stolen Air Force light barrel 50 cal from Danang air base on top of the turret. Replaced the electrical firing mechanism with a mechanical butterfly trigger and she would zing some rounds. Twin thirty's in front of the crew chief hatch. I think you can see my driver's M-14 sticking out in the photo.

I remember this day vividly because my driver, kid from West Virginia got us bottomed out on top of a grave hump and couldn't get us off. As normal occurrence when your driver screwed up, I smacked him in the helmet with a boat hook, kicked him out of the seat, got the tractor off the grave hump, and continued driving with the operation.

You can see what we were doing, blading through the rice paddy dikes and hoping to set off mines that were on either side of the dikes so the grunts and other vehicles could get through. Well, I was successful....blew track, road wheels and me about 40 feet in the air and sent me to the An Hoa field hospital for trauma treatment where I found out the mine had been command detonated and they had the guy about 5 beds down. Today, I thank God I couldn't get up because I would have done something I would have regretted the rest of



my life. Shipped me from there to Da Nang for a few days, then to the USS Hope, from there to the 8th Air Force hospital in Cam Rahn Bay. Air conditioned quonset huts, nurses, food, cold milk. Walking in tall cotton! Had a crewman of mine diving back into the side hatch when we got hit and was shot in the butt, a through-and-through from side to side and he had been at Cam Rahn Bay and fell in love with one of the nurses. She was still there and I told her about George falling in love with her and she felt honored that "one of her boys" remembered her to us.

Anyway, I looked like a mummy as I was wrapped from head to toe in bandages. Had 2nd/3rd degree burns over 28% of my body,

shrapnel, and had shattered the bones in my left foot. For those who don't know about E-1's, if one ever hit a mine, 99% of the time, the driver lost at least part of their left leg. The reason being, is you were blading (manipulating the blade in the front) from a standing position in order to see. The blade control was on the right, your right foot was on the gas, your left arm was hooked between the vision blocks of the cupola, and all your weight was on your left leg, so that leg is what took the brunt of explosive force. I was blessed and kept mine. After I recovered for a couple of weeks, there was this one air force medic that didn't care for Marines much. By this time, my

**Continued Page 8**

# MEMBER LCpl Dylan SPOTLIGHT Higgins



Hailing from Shawnee, Oklahoma, Lance Corporal Dylan Higgins was born on July 28, 1994. Lance Corporal Higgins enlisted into the United States Marine Corps out of RSS Midwest on October 31, 2020, after realizing he wanted a little more out of life. Employed and well-paid as an iron worker, Lance Corporal Higgins couldn't picture himself doing the same thing, day after day. He was not satisfied, so he made the best decision a young 27-year-old can make; joining the Marine Corps.

After all enlistment processes were completed, Lance Corporal Higgins shipped from RS Oklahoma City and reported for Marine Corps recruit training at Marine Recruit Depot San Diego on February 8, 2021. He was assigned to Echo Company, Second Recruit Training Battalion. His sheer physical superiority and grit allowed him to outperform his peers and ultimately secured his position as the Company Honor Graduate, earning him a meritorious promotion to Private First Class. Lance Corporal Higgins recounts his recruit training experience taught him most about decentralized leadership, stress management, and personal growth.

Due to COVID-19 mitigation standard operating procedures, immediately following graduation of recruit training, Private First Class Higgins reported to Golf Company, School of Infantry – West to commence Marine Combat Training (MCT) on May 24, 2021. The Mission of Marine Combat Training Battalion is to generate Marine Riflemen to possess a foundational understanding of, and their role in applying, the Marine Corps' warfighting ethos, core values, basic tenets of maneuver warfare, leadership responsibilities, mental, moral, and physical resiliency in order to contribute to the successful accomplishment of their unit's mission. He graduated MCT on July 1, 2021 and immediately reported to Marine Detachment (MarDet), Fort Lee, Virginia to begin his journey in the Ground Ordnance



**Continued Page 8**

Custodis Pro Ferrum

# Warfighter Focus

## A PIECE OF HISTORY RETURNED

Written by MGySgt Brent Levell, 1st Marine Division Ordnance Chief

4th Bn 11th Field Artillery Regiment (4/11), 1st Marine Division saw immense conflict during the Solomon Island campaign of WWII and vigorously on Guadalcanal. After being relieved by the US Army from November through December 1942, 4/11 conducted rest and refit training in Ballarat Australia. During the nine months of deployment to Ballarat relations between the citizens and Marines flourished and many mementos such as “trench art” deactivated munitions and other artifacts were received by large numbers to Ballarat citizens.

One such item was a Colt 1911 .45cal pistol that was given to John (Jack) Kelly, the details of the acquisition are unknown. However, Jack’s profession at the time was that of a watchmaker and may have facilitated some sort of exchange for services or goods. Mr. Kelly died in the early 1980’s but had passed the pistol to a Mr. Fred Day that continued to safe guard the relic till the mid 1990’s when his health started declining. He then passed the pistol to his son Colonel (Col) Charles A. Western as the trustee, Col Western was an avid long-arms shooter and conducted research into the pistol. As such, Col Western traced the manufacturer (John Moses Browning) serial number back to its production, which was in the first half of 1919.

In August 2017 Col Western stated “he was privileged to partici-



pate in the commemorative ceremony in Guadalcanal, marking the 75th anniversary of the amphibious landing of 1st Marine Division.” During that ceremony, Col Western presented a copy of the New Testament that had belonged to his grandmother by one of three Marines billeted by the family in 1942 to Maj General Eric M. Smith Commanding General, 1st Marine Division. From those conversations Col Western stated the following: “Neither my father and I ever considered that we owned the piece; rather we were and are the custodians as the slide is stamped [United States Property], I felt at the time of conversation between General Smith and myself that the time had come for its return to the Marine Corps.”

In December the pistol was returned to the 1st Marine Division via 1st Battalion, 7th Marines returning from UDP, and has been

cataloged by the Marine Corps Historical Branch and will be displayed in the new 1st Marine Division Headquarters building in 33 Area, Camp Margarita once complete in 2023.

### Author's Note

This event was successful due to the efforts of the Marine who went through the pains to get this pistol home. SSgt Rubio (V17) registered, gained approval with customs and SJA, submitted all the required paperwork to the NMMC and received approval from cradle to grave and is now registered as an artifact with the museum.

Having dealt with “historical” weapons and the museum for a bit over 20 years, I cannot think of many times where it was done the right way the first time.

# IN MEMORIAM

Capt Richard L. Davis: July 14, 1952 - March 12, 2022



It is with a heavy heart that we once again say farewell to an Ordnance Brother who has left this world at the young age of 69.

Rick was born July 14, 1952 in Waco, Texas and left us on March 12, 2022. He was living in his residence Murrells Inlet S.C. surrounded by his loving family when he passed peacefully.

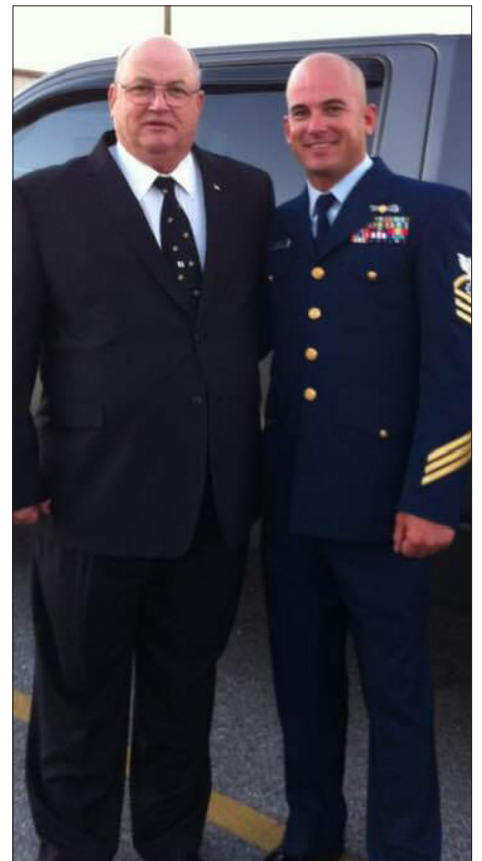
He was best known by brothers in the Corps that if you were talking on the phone with him you ALWAYS knew it was him as he had a unique laugh and voice. You would never forget it. He also had methodical mind, was hell of a mechanic, a woodworker, always thinking and considered a “Jack of all Trades”. He also enjoyed, modeling, sailing, motorcycles, and working in the steel industry. Rick served in the Corps for 20 years,

starting as a Tank Mechanic and retiring as a Mustang Captain.

After his retirement, he worked as a mechanical engineer in the steel industry for 19 years. He was in the Retired Officers Association for the joint services of the military. He was a member of the Grand Strand Scale Modelers Club and won several awards for his displays.

Survivors include his loving wife of 48 years, Sue Davis, his daughter, Jennifer DeValk; son-in-law, Nate DeValk; granddaughter, Logan DeValk; his son, Jeff Davis, daughter-in-law, Bridget Davis; sisters, Sheryl Gula and Pam Norton; brother Doug Davis; nephews and nieces; and other family and friends.

Fair Winds and Following Seas Brother!



# USMC GOMA 2022 Elections

This is an initial announcement for the bi-annual elections of Board Members that will be taking place in November 2022. Positions that will be on the ballot are for the Chairman, Vice-Chairman, Treasurer and Secretary.

Your current board members are not going to be running so candidates will be needed for all four positions.

First and foremost, we need someone to step up to be the Election Committee Chairman no later than April 2022 as neither board members nor candidates are allowed to perform this function per the by-laws.

Eligibility for Candidates serving on the board is that they must be a regular member in good standing (Associate Members can-

not serve) and be willing to serve a 2 year post.

After the elections, the current Chairman stays on the board for another year as the Past Chairman to assist in the transition of the board and the current Treasurer will assist his replacement during the transition of all accounts and matters pertaining to this position. In addition, turnover folders for Chairman, Vice-Chairman & Treasurer are being established to assist. The Secretary position is currently vacant and needs to be filled right away, but will still be on the Ballot for the November Election.

We cannot express enough the importance of finding candidates to stand up and take this over and these candidates need to be identified no later than July 2022.

## WELCOME ABOARD TO OUR NEWEST GOMA MEMBERS!

Angel Alcantara (Honorary)  
 Timothy Austin  
 (Renewal Annual)  
 Lance Baughman  
 (Renewal Annual x2 years)  
 Marc Brownlee  
 (Renewal Annual)  
 Dylan Higgins (Honorary)  
 Ian Joy (Honorary)  
 Richard Knuth (Renewal Annual)  
 Mark Oldroyd  
 (Renewal Annual x2 years)  
 Miranda Ortega (Honorary)  
 Trevor Pekay (Honorary)  
 Jordan Urquhart (Honorary)  
 Michael Wertz (Honorary)

## 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.

The 2022 Scholarship Awards Chairman has been found! We would like to give our thanks to Plankholder CWO-5 Del Bennie for stepping up and managing this years Scholarships!

The 2022 USMC GOMA Scholarship Awards Program is now accepting applications. The instructions

and applications can be downloaded at [www.usmcgoma.org](http://www.usmcgoma.org) Plan is to award 7 (possibly more) well deserving men and woman who qualify in August 2022. If you have any questions, please email [scholarships@usmcgoma.org](mailto:scholarships@usmcgoma.org)

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.

For those who have not yet joined as a member or have let their memberships elapse, time for you to go to [www.usmcgoma.org](http://www.usmcgoma.org) and join!  
 Semper Fidelis!!!

## Member Spotlight Continued

Maintenance community as a Small Arms Repairer Technician.

While assigned to 1st Platoon, Bravo Company, MarDet Fort Lee, Virginia, PFC Higgins was immersed into unfamiliar subjects, learning through Socratic-based instructional methods. As a student at MarDet Fort Lee, his initiative and discipline led him to absorb, study and retain information on basic knowledge and skills, direct fire weapons of various calibers, and indirect fire weapon systems. At the conclusion of the course, he found himself in a very familiar position, number 1.

He graduated at the top of his class and was awarded an Honorary Membership to the Ground Ordnance Maintenance Association. PFC Higgins was also awarded a Certificate of Commendation and was meritoriously promoted to Lance Corporal on Oct 21, 2021.

After graduating the Small Arms Repair Course, Lance Corporal Higgins reported directly to the Infantry Weapons Repair Platoon, Ordnance Maintenance Company, 1st Maintenance Battalion, 1st Marine Logistics Group and he hit the



ground running. After reporting for duty, it was evident that Lance Corporal Higgins had his head on straight and was firing on all cylinders. Recognizing talent, his Staff Non-Commissioned Officer In-Charge (SNCOIC), Gunnery Sergeant Giovanni Calderon recommended Lance Corporal Higgins be assigned to manage the Demand Supported Items and Intermediate Maintenance Activity Layettes. With only a few weeks to learn and prepare his new billet, Lance Corporal

Higgins was subject to a Field Supply and Maintenance Analysis Office (FSMAO) Inspection. As many of you know, a FSMAO inspection is not a quick once-over, by any means. His inspection resulted in only minor discrepancies that were out of his control and implemented corrective actions that would soon make his inspectable areas flawless. His accuracy and confidence level are seldom seen in Marines of his rank or time in service.

Marines like Lance Corporal Higgins are not only the future of our Ground Ordnance Maintenance community, but of our beloved Corps and cherished country too.

His future is bright.

Lance Corporal Higgins' better half is 2NDLT Christina Higgins (USA Logistics Officer). She is currently attending Army Logistics University aboard Fort Lee, Virginia.

Lance Corporal Higgins' future aspirations include attending Ground Ordnance Supervisor's Course, attaining the rank of Corporal, and broadening his experience by serving in the 1st Marine Division.

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## Blast From The past Continued

foot and leg were in a full cast with my toes sticking out, and he came by one day and flicked my toes with his fingers.

Hate to be a wimp, but it hurt like hell and pissed me off. I had a K-bar in a drawer next to my cot and I pulled it and threatened to make little pieces out of big pieces. Not that I could have caught him. However, within 3 hours, I had been transferred to the 6th Army Hospital, also at Cam Rahn Bay, but this was GP tents, cots on

pallets, no air, so-so food, and a serious downgrade in nurses. Spent a couple of months there, was released back to light duty, and went back to Da Nang to what I thought would be my tractor battalion, only to find them missing and nobody I talked with knew where they went. I finally chased them down at Cau Viet, on the mouth of the Cau Viet river downstream from Dong Ha. Anyway, that is the story behind this picture. Good ol' days.

Side note, if you look at the

picture again, you will see grunts riding on top of my pallets with the top hatches open. Forgot to tell you the pallets were full of C-4 line charges, about 3500 lbs worth. They were in there when I hit the mine. The hatches flipped down and hit a couple of them, medivacked my crewman (no, NOT from the boat hook to the helmet) and I never saw him again. We usually never told the grunts they were sitting on C-4 until they were getting off. Lots of funny reactions!



Comedy  
repro

Hard To Explain If You Haven't Been There!

IN-COUNTRY **VET**





*"...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.

A special thanks to our Corporate Sponsors Amanda Riley RF Strategies and Ken Stroud Professional Solutions Delivered LLC for their generous support to the Scholarship Program.

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.

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-LPM-2  
Ground Equipment Commodity Management Section head (LPM-2)  
MGySgt Joe Kennedy 21XX  
Occupational Field Manager  
Commodity Management Section (LPM-2)

### HQMC/ CD&I

Capt Jason Beck  
Capabilities Integration Officer

### MARFORPAC:

Maj Michael Bressler/  
MGySgt Mainor Carpiobran

### MARFORCOM:

Capt Nicky Jones

### MARFORRES:

LtCol Christian Galbraith/  
MGySgt Sean Dawson

### MARFORSOC:

Maj Gilbert Woods/  
MSgt Karin Monaco  
**I MEF:** Maj Douglas Mayorga/  
MGySgt Dee Harris

- 1st MarDiv: Maj Nathaniel Crouch /MGySgt Brent Levell

- 1st MLG: MGySgt Juan Mora

**II MEF:** LtCol Michael Lukkes/  
MGySgt John Deering III

- 2d MARDIV: Maj Jason Price/  
MGySgt Clovis Johnson

- 2d MLG: MGySgt Byron

- Jacobson

**III MEF:** LtCol Mark Oldroyd /  
MGySgt MGySgt Kyle Hall

- 3d MARDIV: Maj Aaron

- Rancloes/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>



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



# 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.