

Friday,
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MARINE GUNNER ASSOCIATION

Quarterly

Issue #1-22

SMEAC

The latest Situation update

Welcome to our first issue of the Marine Gunner Association Quarterly. A lot has happened since our inaugural dinner in August of 21' in conjunction with the Marine Gunner Symposium in Quantico VA. Since then, we have become a legitimate 501 (c) (3) non-profit named Marine Gunner Association, Inc., out of Schertz Texas on January 4th of 2022. Special thanks to Gunner Kevin Gonzalez (CWO4 ret.) for the heavy lifting on getting the non-profit up and running.

We are very excited about what the future holds and cannot wait to see what opportunities arise to help our family of Marine Gunners and their families, through maintaining an avenue for the camaraderie we so enjoy as active duty Marines to transcend into retirement. Providing an avenue for our retirees as well as active duty to maintain relationships, host events where people can see long lost Marine brothers, and provide a more detailed network to ensure we do not forget our brothers, is of utmost importance. This organization is targeting Active Duty and Retired Marine Gunners (0306), Infantry Weapons Officers. If the last year has



2021 Inaugural Marine Gunner Association Banquet

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The latest Situation update...

proven anything, it is that the need to maintain the strong bonds that ensure success at our primary jobs in the military, which often include life-long friendships, continue to be something we can count on into retirement. WE have lost, unnecessarily, three of our brothers in the last year. The MGA can be a medium for those that need to reset themselves and spend time with some good people. We all know and feel that connection to service daily as active duty members, but to continue this network into retirement will ensure our brothers will continue to experience and remember their service that they once experienced on a daily basis, thus strengthening our bonds between active duty and retirees, never forgetting.

By bringing active duty and retirees together, sharing of ideas, lessons learned, the wisdom of our predecessors, and filling in the blanks of where the Marine Corps is currently headed with the fielding of gear and equipment, manning, and design; we can strive to learn from the mistakes of our past and constantly strive to be better. Always serving the infantry community. We look forward to future events, shaking hands, telling stories, and ensuring that the service everyone has so diligently provided over the years is not forgotten but instead celebrated.

To that end we will be starting our membership efforts beginning with this year's annual MGA banquet. Semper Fi!



First Class of Marine Gunners after Gen. Gray brought back the bomb for infantry experts only. Class of 1989.

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Current Friendly Situation

First Quarterly issue, state of the MGA and look towards a bright future.

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Man, Train, Equip

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Membership

What you have been waiting for...

To become a member of the MGA the criteria is as follows. Served or are currently serving as a Marine Gunner, MOS 0306, Infantry Weapons Officer. This applies mostly to those who became Gunners after the 1988 decision. The subsequent class of 1989 confirmed the decision by our 29th Commandant of the Marine Corps, General Alfred M. Gray, to bring the bursting bomb back for Infantry Marines only. Marines who served as Marine Gunners in the infantry prior to this decision will be by exception, and of course permitted. Those Marines who wore the bomb in non-infantry MOS's are not included in this population.

For those that seek to become members, a minimum donation of \$50 dollars is required. As this is a non-profit organization without pay for the board and executives, the donations serve to cover

operating costs of the MGA such as, but not all inclusive; administration fees, materials for events, costs associated to setting up the MGA to include web domains, emails, programs, newsletters, logos and other operating costs typical to organizations like this. Becoming a member not only provides access to a unique group and network, it grants you access to our annual dinner with immediate family guests, and events as they arise. As this is a new organization, and we are figuring some things out as we go, there is no guarantee we know all things that will arise, but the goal is for this to be as accessible and painless as possible. For membership, please contact any of the following POCs. Our website should be launched shortly with simple ways to donate for membership.

Ray Browne
r.browne@marinegunnerassociation.org

Mike Brooks
r.brooks@marinegunnerassociation.org

Matt Carpenter
m.carpenter@marinegunnerassociation.org

Matt Anderson
m.anderson@marinegunnerassociation.org

Kevin Gonzalez
k.gonzalez@marinegunnerassociation.org



IWOC Firing 60mm Mortars and M320 Grenade Launchers. Courtesy of the TBS Gunner/Director of IWOC.

Man, Train, Equip

Gunners and Gear

Of note, this year's Warrant Officer Basic Course (WOBC) graduated 12 Marine Gunners; 10 of which graduated in the top 10%. Gunner Beau Winn was the WOBC Honor Graduate and Gunner Alex Deykerhoff was recognized by his peers as the Gung Ho recipient. These Gunners are currently attending Infantry Weapons Officer Course under the tutelage of Gunner Keith Eggers at The Basic School, learning the tools to be successful at their first units.

This year's Gunner accession board should happen this summer, we had

upwards of 40 packages submitted from the FMF, training commands, reserves and other supporting establishments for an estimated 15-19 slots this year.

Current ongoing fielding of equipment includes the M320 40mm grenade launcher replacing the M203, PC Gen III boasting a 30% weight reduction once the new plates are fielded, PVS31 Bino Night vision with white phosphor tubes, suppressors, Squad Combat Optic, high cut helmets, M18 pistols and the MAAWs (Carl Gustav).

Upcoming Events

Chow and Grog...

We are happy to announce that we were able to secure sponsorship for this year's annual MGA dinner. We expect with the prospective sponsors, Active Duty Gunners, and retirees and families that this year's showing will definitely be representative of not only our Gunner community but those in industry who support our cause.

The dinner will be held August 25th from 1700-2200 at Bel Aire 1740 Events. The address is 14513 General Washington Drive, Prince William, VA 22193.

A separate email correspondence will go out with an electronic invite. It would be very helpful to us if you could please RSVP with intended guests. This will ensure we have acquired the correct meal count and venue size. Again, membership is required to attend the dinner, but of course we don't want to turn anyone away. Please make every effort to pay your donation prior to the dinner.

Super Squad

Congrats to Division Rifle Squad Competition winners, they will be recognized at HQMC in Quantico on 12 August at the sunset parade.

*3/4, 7th Regt, 1 MARDIV
2/8, 2nd Regt, 2 MARDIV
1/3, 3rd MLR, 3 MARDIV
2/23, 23d Regt, 4 MARDIV*

Roll Call!!!!

The latest updates



IWOC Shooting rockets.

Your core group of leaders within the Marine Gunner Association have been working weekly to keep this going. Every week we make steps to get closer to realizing what this MGA can be and to that end the following is your Executives and Board of Directors.

Gunner Matt Carpenter (CWO4, Ret.) is the current President of the Marine Gunner Association to serve for a minimum of two years.

Gunner Matt Anderson (CWO5), currently serving as the Vice President for the Marine Gunner Association and will serve as long as he is in the PPO billet. The Executives and Board of Directors voted to make the PPO Gunner billet the first choice for Vice President to ensure connective tissue to the active duty side.

Gunner Kevin Gonzalez (CWO4, Ret.) is serving as the Treasurer and on the Board of Directors.

Gunner Mike Brooks (CWO5, Ret.) is serving on the Board of Directors.

Gunner Ray Browne (CWO5), First Marine Division Gunner, is serving on the Board of Directors.

We are currently in need of a Secretary as an appointed executive. Please reach out to any of the above or below to express your desire for this position. We are excited to announce that MajGen Dale Alford, CWO5 (ret.) Jeff Eby, and CWO5 (ret.) Cecil Beltran have agreed to join our Board of Directors. Once we get their emails up and running we will post.

Moment of Silence

We lost Marines this last year in Afghanistan while serving their country. To the Marines and Sailors of 2nd Battalion 1st Marines and 1st Battalion 8th Marines our thoughts are with you and your families.

We lost three Marine Gunners this last year, Jesse Schertz (CWO4, Ret.), Gordon Hay (CWO4, Ret.), and Rollie Pennington (CWO2) all lost their lives. Our thoughts are with you and your families. Semper Fi. Let's take care of our families and friends. Let's stay in touch.



Bill Callen being awarded the Hulbert Award at the ground awards dinner in Spring of 22'.



Left Picture: Class of 21' Gunnery currently serving their first year in their billets. Right Picture: Class of 22' Gunnery freshly graduated WOBC and attending IWOC.