Table of Contents

BYLAWS: The United States Marine Corps Combat Correspondents Association, Inc. 2

Article I: Name and Purpose..... 2

Article II: Fiscal Year..... 2

Article III: Membership..... 2

Article IV: Annual Business Meeting..... 4

Article V: Management..... 4

Article VI: Standing Committees..... 6

Article VII: Elections..... 8

Article VIII: Chapters..... 8

Article IX: Bylaws and Governing Regulations..... 8

Article X: Procedure..... 9

BYLAWS: The United States Marine Corps Combat Correspondents Association, Inc.

Article I: Name and Purpose

Section a. The name of the organization is the United States Marine Corps Combat Correspondents Association, Incorporated (herein referred to as "USMCCCA" or the "Association"). The USMCCCA is a not-for-profit organization incorporated in North Carolina as a 501(c)(19) with a Board of Directors, officers, and committees. The Board of Directors is responsible for overseeing the organization and making key decisions. The officers include a President, Vice President, Secretary, and Treasurer, who are responsible for executing the day-to-day operations of the organization.

Section b. The purpose of the USMCCCA is to serve the general welfare of its members and establish and maintain a rapport between the USMCCCA, the U. S. Marine Corps, and related agencies; to promote the professional development of its members and recognize their achievements; to recognize achievements and provide awards for active duty Marines, including reservists serving on active duty*;* to provide a means for the exchange of information of interest and importance to its members; and to aid and assist the Communication Strategy and Operations occupational field. This organization's objectives are patriotic, professional, and fraternal. The Association shall not be used as a vehicle for personal achievement. No part of the activities of the Association shall be the carrying on of propaganda or otherwise attempting to influence legislation, and the Association shall not directly or indirectly participate in or intervene in (including the publishing or distribution of statements) any political campaign on behalf of or in opposition to any candidate for public office.

Article II: Fiscal Year

Section a. The Association's fiscal year shall be calendar year: January 1-December 31.

Article III: Membership

Section a. At least 97.5% of the members of the USMCCCA shall consist of past or present members of the U.S. Marine Corps, cadets, and their spouses, widows, widowers, ancestors, or lineal descendants, as defined in Internal Revenue Code §501(c)(19)**.** Membership categories and eligibility standards shall be managed in a manner that ensures continuous compliance with the 97.5 percent veteran-affiliated requirement. The organization shall maintain documentation sufficient to demonstrate that these statutory thresholds are met at all times. Proof of service must be provided for membership. Specific documentation required is subject to the discretion of the Board of Directors, but may include a DD214, Marine Online verification screenshot for active duty members, etc.

Section b. Regular Membership is open to individuals who served or are currently serving in the Public Affairs (PA), Combat Camera (COMCAM), or Communication Strategy and Operations (COMMSTRAT) occupational fields. It may also be granted to any present or former U. S. Marine who has served as a U.S. Marine Corps print or broadcast journalist, photographer, motion picture or television production person, artist or illustrator, reproduction specialist, public affairs officer, audiovisual officer, or other legacy occupational specialties responsible for visual information. Regular members shall have the right to vote in elections and on issues raised at annual meetings of the Association, and to hold national elected office.

Section c. Associate Membership may be granted to any U.S. Marine Corps veteran who later served/serves in the profession of mass communications or any member of the communication media who is or was professionally associated with the U.S. Marine Corps. Associate Membership may also be granted to any individual working in a support capacity with a Marine Corps COMMSTRAT office as a Government Service (GS) or Contractor (CTR) role. Associate Members shall have the right to vote in elections and on issues raised at annual meetings of the Association and to hold the National Director office.

Section d. Affiliate Membership may be granted to any individual interested in furthering the aims and goals of the association through affiliation with the Association. Affiliate Members are encouraged to attend meetings, debate issues, and work on committees; however, they may not vote or hold national office. While not all inclusive, Affiliate Members can include civilians in the broadcast journalism field, active/former sister service members in the public affairs/combat camera fields, technical experts in VI technology, etc.

Section e. Life Membership may be granted to any regular, associate or affiliate member who satisfies the dues requirement for lifetime membership. Affiliate Members upgraded to Life Membership remain ineligible for national office/vote casting.

Section f. Honorary Life Membership may be granted to any individual who has been of outstanding service to the Marine Corps through his or her professional works. Honorary Life Membership shall be granted to any person who meets the requirements to be a Regular Member, who has also been awarded the Purple Heart Medal. Honorary Life Membership may only be granted upon approval by the Board of Directors.

Section g. All membership applications must be submitted online at the Association's website or forwarded to National Headquarters via U.S. mail or email are subject to verification and approval by the Board of Directors to stay in compliance with the IRS and the good of the organization. No one may join a local chapter unless they are a member of the national Association.

Section h. Annual dues in amounts determined by the vote of the Regular and Associate Membership are due and payable to the national headquarters one year from the date of initial membership or last renewal. Nonpayment of dues results in the loss of voting and other membership privileges. Dues may be paid by credit card by using the official USMCCCA website,

www.usmccca.org, or by calling, mailing, or emailing national headquarters with the necessary credit card information or check.

Article IV: Annual Business Meeting

Section a. The Association shall meet in conference annually to conduct business, review progress and develop united action toward accomplishing the goals and furthering the aims and the purposes of the Association. Unlike standard meetings, which are held digitally, the Annual Business Meeting will be held in person alongside the COMMSTRAT Training Leadership and Development Summit (TLDS), when possible. The Communication Directorate, Headquarters, U.S. Marine Corps, will decide the meeting venue as part of overall TLDS planning. In the event the Communication Directorate chooses not to hold a TLDS, the Association remains obligated to organize an Awards Banquet for the community but will do so at a location the Board of Directors determines to be the most cost effective for the Association and minimizes travel cost for awardees.

Section b. National officers and directors shall be elected during the annual business meeting.

Section c. A quorum for the annual business meeting shall include at least one Regular Member registered at the conference, approximately one hour before the beginning of the annual meeting. Voting may be done by secret ballot or by hand vote, and members may vote in person or by proxy.

Article V: Management

Section a. The management of this Association is entrusted by the membership to a ten-member Board of Directors. The board shall consist of four officers (the Association President, Vice President, Secretary and Treasurer), each to serve a one-year term; and six Directors who serve two-year terms of office. One Director position will have the fixed responsibilities as the Association's "Director of Technology," responsible for the direct oversight and management of the Association website and digital requirements. During official voting, the President shall abstain from all votes to preserve an odd number of votes. In the event a quorum is reached but not all board members are present which may result in a vote split, the President shall serve as the tie-breaking vote.

Section b. The Board of Directors is vested with the responsibility of formulating the Association's general policies, goals and objectives. Once these strategic plans and objectives are established, it is the President, together with the officers of the Association, acting under the direction of the Board, who are responsible for implementing plans and strategies to meet these objectives.

Section c. The Board of Directors shall meet in a body virtually at least twice annually, but may meet on a more frequent basis at the discretion of the President.

Section d. The President shall preside at all meetings of the Board of Directors and the Association. With the Secretary, he or she shall execute all legal papers, documents, and instruments ordered to be executed by the board of directors. The President shall appoint chairs of standing committees and other committees as may be required; shall be ex officio a member of all committees of the Association; and shall perform such other duties as may be prescribed by the Board of Directors. The President shall be the spokesperson of the Association, but may delegate that responsibility to the Vice President.

The office of President shall not be held by an active-duty Marine except when the office of President is vacated and the Vice President, if an active-duty Marine, assumes the full duties of the President until the next regular election.

Section e. The Vice President shall be chief of protocol and shall ensure appropriate observance of etiquette, military customs, and courtesies in all Association activities, especially in connection with the annual Awards Banquet. The Vice President, working with the President, shall set the agenda for the Annual Business Meeting and perform such other duties as may be assigned by the President. The Vice President shall act on behalf of the President when the latter is unable to preside, and, should a vacancy occur, shall assume full duties of the President until the next general election.

Section f. The Secretary shall, together with the President, execute such legal papers, documents, or instruments as authorized by the Board of Directors. The Secretary shall keep minutes of all meetings of the Association and of the board of directors. Following each meeting, the Secretary shall prepare a full set of minutes and an executive summary of these minutes. The executive summary will be published on the Association website. A complete set of minutes may be requested by members by writing, calling or emailing the USMCCCA Board.

Section g. The Treasurer shall serve as custodian of all funds and securities of the Association and shall cause them to be placed in depositories as approved by the board of directors. He or she shall execute fund expenditures within the guidelines and provisions directed by the board. The Treasurer shall see that an accurate record of the funds is kept and shall make monthly reports to the Board of Directors.

Section h. Should an other-than-presidential vacancy occur, the board may elect an individual to assume the duties of the vacated position for the unexpired portion of the term. If a member of the Board of Directors is unable to attend a meeting, they are required to notify the Board of Directors via written correspondence which can be via email or text message. If an officer or director fails to provide written notice to the Board of Directors and is absent for at least two subsequent meetings, the Board of Directors may vote to end that officer or director's term and solicit for a replacement which will be ratified by a Board vote at the next practicable meeting to fill the unexpired portion of the term.

Section i. The Board of Directors shall have the power to enter into cooperative relationships with other agencies or organizations when, in its judgment, such a relationship is desirable

toward achieving the Association's objectives in the area concerned, in which case they shall have the power, on behalf of the Association, to execute articles of agreement setting forth the rules of the government of the cooperative operation – to include provisions for severing the relationships when, in the judgment of the board of directors, it is in the Association's best interest to do so.

Section j. The Association, through its Board of Directors, may hold or dispose of such property, real or personal, as may be given, devised, bequeathed to it, or entrusted to its care or keeping, and may purchase, acquire, and dispose of such property as may be necessary to carry out the purposes of the Association.

Section k. The Board of Directors shall control and manage all property of the Association.

Section l. No contract, debt or obligation shall be binding unless contracted under the authority of the board of directors.

Section m. An Association historian shall be appointed by the Board of Directors to compile and maintain the Association's historical data and material. He or she shall be a member of the Association and will serve, ex officio, as a non-voting member of the board.

Section n. A Marine Corps liaison shall be appointed annually by the Board of Directors to serve as the connecting link between the Association and the Marine Corps. He or she will provide advice and counsel on matters pertaining to active-duty members of the Association and will coordinate with the Communication Directorate, Headquarters, U.S. Marine Corps, for action required in the conduct of the annual awards program and annual TLDS. If not an elected member of the board of directors, this individual shall become, ex officio, a non-voting member of the board. The Association will maintain a memorandum of understanding with the Communication Directorate, with the expectations associated with this position and what is provided by the Association and the Communication Directorate.

Section o. To ensure continuity and efficiency in the conduct of Association business, the Board of Directors may engage professional management services to operate the Association's national headquarters, assist in planning and conducting organizational business, provide parliamentary *advice* and perform such duties as directed by the board. The management services' principal representative for the USMCCCA need not be a regular member of the Association.

Article VI: Standing Committees

Section a. The administrative work of the Board of Directors shall be divided into four standing committees. Other committees will be stood up as deemed necessary by the Board of Directors. The standing committees are: Finance (Treasurer chair), By-Laws and SOP (Vice President to Chair), Outreach & Communications, and Awards. The President shall assign

members of the Board of Directors to chair or serve on standing committees. Regular, Associate, Life and Affiliate members of the Association may volunteer to serve on a standing committee by making their desires known to any board member.

Section b. The Awards Committee shall administer and review all awards presented by the Association. These include *the Visual Information and Excellence in Communication (VIEC) Awards*, the *Donald L. Dickson Memorial Award*, the *Brigadier General Robert L. Denig Memorial Distinguished Performance Award*, the *William T. Perkins Combat Cameraman of the Year Award*, *the Marketing and Public Affairs (MPA) Awards*, as well as awards of Association membership, and other special awards which may be given from time to time. This committee, together with the Communication Directorate, HQMC, when appropriate, shall solicit nominations for awards, ensure nominees meet appropriate eligibility criteria, assemble judging panels if necessary, and present nomination packages to appropriate voting or judging authorities, in accordance with established award criteria.

Section c. The Membership Committee shall solicit and compile a list of names of individuals eligible and willing to serve as Association officers or directors. This list will be provided as a slate of candidates from which the regular and or associate membership may elect officers and directors by voting in the annual election. The Membership Committee also oversees the number and members of Association Chapters.

Section d. The Ways and Means Committee shall plan, review, and oversee all methods of raising funds for the Association. These include membership dues and conference registration fees, awards, and memorabilia sales.

Section e. The Bylaws Committee shall review the Association bylaws at least quarterly, checking for necessary updates and ensuring that additions to or removals from the bylaws of the Association ratified by the Board are captured.

Finance Committee

The Finance Committee oversees all financial matters of the Association, including fundraising, budgeting, and revenue management. It supports the Treasurer in ensuring fiscal responsibility and transparency in all Association activities.

Bylaws and SOP Committee

The Bylaws and SOP Committee reviews and updates the Association's governing documents to ensure they remain accurate and current. It recommends changes and ensures all approved amendments are properly incorporated.

Outreach and Communications Committee
The Outreach and Communications Committee manages membership growth, retention, and external engagement. It also oversees the Association's public relations, media presence, and communication with members and partners.

Awards Committee
The Awards and Banquet Committee administers all Association awards and recognition programs. It coordinates nominations, selection processes, and ceremonies in accordance with established award criteria.

Article VII: Elections

Section a. Officers and directors of the Association shall be elected by majority vote of regular, life, and associate members who may cast their votes either by absentee ballot or in person at the annual meeting. No member shall be entitled to vote by proxy.

Section b. Any regular, life, associate or affiliate member of the USMCCCA may nominate a candidate for national office by submitting the nominee's name to the Board of Directors, which will determine the candidate's eligibility and willingness to serve. Nominations shall be accepted at any time between the announcements of a given year's election results and May 15 of the subsequent year. Nominee names may be submitted by mail or email.

Section c. When the number of candidates does not exceed the number of positions open in a given year, the need for preparation and mailing of an absentee ballot is waived.

Article VIII: Chapters

Section a. Local chapters of the USMCCCA, composed of members of the national organization, are chartered for the purpose of furthering the patriotic, professional and fraternal goals of the Association. The board of directors may authorize the formation, in any geographical area, of a provisional chapter with at least eight (8) regular or associate members in good standing. New chapters are subject to a two-year probationary period upon approval of the board of directors, with a date retroactive to the date provisional approval *was* granted.

Section b. Elected chapter officers generally include a president, vice president, secretary, and treasurer. Terms of office, as determined by local chapters, shall be one or two years in duration. The offices of chapter president and vice president shall be held only by regular or associate members of the national Association. Newly-elected officers shall be installed no later than sixty (60) days prior to the national Association's annual meeting. Each chapter shall

submit a list of current officers to national headquarters no later than forty-five (45) days prior to each annual conference.

Section c. Each chapter shall meet at least quarterly and shall submit minutes of each meeting to the national headquarters not later than two weeks after each meeting.

Article IX: Bylaws and Governing Regulations

Section a. New bylaws may be adopted and existing bylaws may be amended or repealed by majority vote of the regular and associate members present at the annual meeting or voting by absentee ballot mail. Absentee voting (bylaw changes only) can be submitted by U.S. Mail or by electronic (email) mail to the national headquarters.

Section b. The board of directors may set, modify, or cancel such governing regulations as may be helpful in standardizing operations and procedures within the Association, so long as these regulations do not conflict with the Association's incorporating documents or bylaws.

Article X: Procedure

Section a. Unless provided otherwise in these bylaws, procedure at all meetings shall be governed by the most current edition of Robert's Rules of Order.

Section b. The latest revision voted/reviewed and approved was January 2026

CERTIFICATION

I, as President of the United States Marine Corps Combat Correspondents Association, a North Carolina certified 501(c)(19), do hereby certify that the foregoing is a true and correct copy of the Association's By Laws adopted by the Board of Directors of the Association on February 4, 2026. In witness thereof, I hereunto set my hand and affixed the Corporate Seal of the Association this fourth day of February in the year of our Lord, 2026.

/s/ George Papastrat

George Papastrat

President