

# *FAMILY READINESS NEWSLETTER*

## SYSTEMS COMMAND

FALL 2010



### *From The C.O.*

#### **Brogan era comes to an end as Kelley assumes command**

##### **Change of Command**

Bill Johnson-Miles, MCSC Corporate Communications

MARINE CORPS BASE QUANTICO, Va. – On a very hot and humid day in early July with temperatures rising toward three digits, Colonel Frank Kelley assumed command of Marine Corps Systems Command (MCSC) from Brigadier General Michael Brogan.

“The first thing that I’d like you to do is think about the last four years we’ve had under General Brogan’s leadership,” Kelley said. “I am confident that it will be known as the Brogan era, with unprecedented growth in terms of personnel and budget authority, and saving the lives of our men and women in OIF and OEF [Operations Iraqi Freedom and Enduring Freedom].”

“This has been an incredibly rewarding tour,” Brogan said. “To look at the M-ATV [MRAP All-Terrain Vehicle] and know that nearly 27,000 other MRAP [Mine Resistant Ambush Protected] vehicles were produced, fielded into Iraq, Afghanistan and other places around the world – we have made a difference in the lives of Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen and Marines. And it wasn’t just MRAP. It was each piece of equipment produced by this Command that increased both the lethality and the survivability of the Marine Corps, provided command and control capability, or improved situational awareness. Thank you all.”

With a traditional ceremonial parade and passing of the Command Colors, salutes rendered and handshakes accepted, the Colonel and the Brigadier General switched places, signifying the change of command. Under new leadership MCSC’s mission to equip the warfighter to win will continue, and major revisions are not expected.

“For Marine Corps Systems Command, our mission is not going to change,” the new Commander said. “I don’t see a wholesale reorganization on the horizon.”

The Marine Corps selected Kelley for the rank of Brigadier General, and a frocking ceremony was held in late July or early August. Kelley, a native of Philadelphia, graduated from the University of Notre Dame with a degree in Aeronautical and Aerospace Engineering. Upon graduation, the Marine Corps commissioned him as a Second Lieutenant, and he spent most of his early career flying and serving with Marine Corps air squadrons and air groups.

## SYSCOM NEWS

In addition to his other military assignments, Kelley attended the Marine Corps War College and taught at the Command and Staff College. He then transferred to MCSC where he served as the Program Manager for Unmanned Systems. The Colonel next served as Military Assistant to the Assistant Secretary of the Navy for Research, Development and Acquisition.

In August 2007 Kelley accepted the position as MCSC's Program Manager for Training Systems in Orlando, Fla., followed by an assignment as MCSC's Chief of Staff in August 2009. The new MCSC Commander would like his entire workforce to consider a few ideas.

"Our Commandant has asked us to cast an eye back out to sea so that we can embrace our naval heritage and our expeditionary role," Kelley said. "I would also like you to consider two imperatives that have been revealed to us recently. The first of those is to squeeze maximum value out of every dollar we spend on behalf of the American taxpayer. The second is to develop and implement best practices."

The Commander stressed that these tasks need be tackled deliberately, extensively and out in the open.

"We're going to provide visibility to the people we work with," the Colonel said. "I would ask you to keep the collaboration throughout this entire enterprise. Doing that is not going to be easy in an environment where we don't really know what the future is."

The future may be unclear, but the confidence level is high.

"General Brogan has told you that I have been working at MCSC for a while," Kelley concluded. "I do know you, and you know me. I know that we will be up to any task or demand that our Corps has for us."



*Congratulations!*



Commanding Officer  
 BG Frank Kelley  
 (703) 432-1801

Sergeant Major  
 SgtMaj Ethbin Hayes  
 (703) 432-1803

Family Readiness Officer  
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Chaplain's Office  
 703-784-1439

Recent Promotions

	<i>J. Vinso</i>	<i>LTC.</i>	<i>C. Blackler</i>	<i>MGySgt.</i>
<i>C. Madelin</i>	<i>C. Madeline</i>	<i>LTC.</i>	<i>J. Kendall</i>	<i>MSgt.</i>
<i>D. Lockne</i>	<i>D. Lockner</i>	<i>LTC.</i>	<i>K. Kerrick</i>	<i>GySgt.</i>
<i>S. Lavelle</i>	<i>S. Lavelle</i>	<i>LTC.</i>	<i>J. Chinique</i>	<i>SSgt.</i>
<i>T. King</i>	<i>T. King</i>	<i>LTC.</i>	<i>J. Barrowes</i>	<i>Sgt.</i>
<i>B. Fulks</i>	<i>B. Fulks</i>	<i>LTC.</i>	<i>A. Medina</i>	<i>LCpl.</i>
<i>J. Pelland</i>	<i>J. Pelland</i>	<i>Maj.</i>		
<i>S. Mellon</i>	<i>S. Mellon</i>	<i>Capt.</i>		
	<i>G. Moore Jr.</i>	<i>CWO3</i>		
	<i>J. Hatcher Jr.</i>	<i>CWO3</i>		
	<i>J. Williams</i>	<i>CWO2</i>		
	<i>G. Schwiner</i>	<i>CWO2</i>		
	<i>D. Jensen</i>	<i>CWO2</i>		

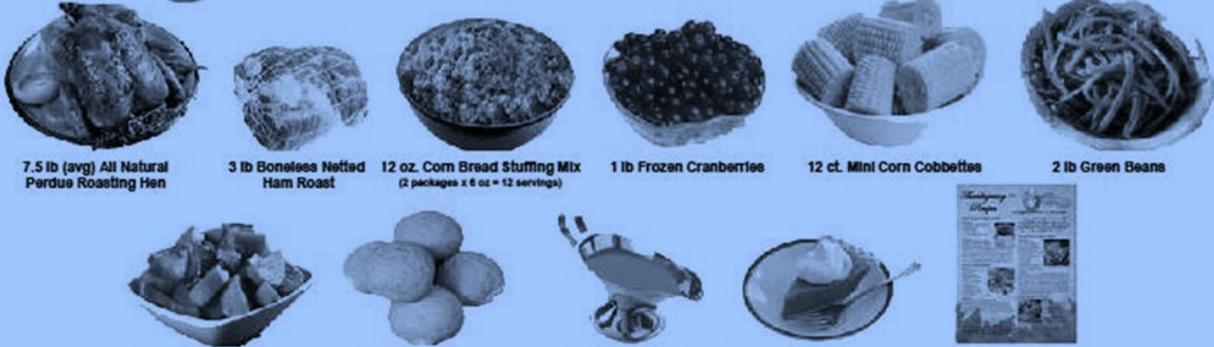
Angel Food Ministries

Are you looking for ways to stretch your grocery budget? For \$36 you can get approximately \$60 worth of high quality food through Angel Food Ministries. One signature unit for thirty dollars will feed a family of 4 for about a week. It's worth looking into. Visit [www.angelfoodministries.com](http://www.angelfoodministries.com) and enter your zip code for monthly menus and additional information. If you would like to receive email or txt message updates to Angel Food information, register online at [www.staffordangelfood.org](http://www.staffordangelfood.org).

# Thanksgiving with Angel Food

**angelfood**  
MINISTRIES

**Thanksgiving Box \$36**  
*Orders to be delivered during November distribution*



7.5 lb (avg) All Natural Perdue Roasting Hen    3 lb Boneless Notted Ham Roast    12 oz. Corn Bread Stuffing Mix (2 packages x 6 oz = 12 servings)    1 lb Frozen Cranberries    12 ct. Mini Corn Cobettes    2 lb Green Beans

2 lb. Diced Sweet Potatoes    12 ct. Whole Wheat Dinner Rolls    1.7 oz. Brown Gravy Mix    Desert    Recipe Sheet and Cooking Instructions

\*Angel Food Thanksgiving boxes can be ordered beginning September 18<sup>th</sup> through November 11<sup>th</sup>  
\*if paying with EBT (food stamp) benefits, orders may begin October 16th

**(540) 720-FOOD (3663)**  
email: [staffordangelfood@gmail.org](mailto:staffordangelfood@gmail.org)

**How to Order:**

- Online at: [www.staffordangelfood.org](http://www.staffordangelfood.org) and click the "Order Now" link
- Visit [www.angelfoodministries.org](http://www.angelfoodministries.org) and find a host site near you
- In Person at: "The Hope Center", 32 Bells Hill Road, Stafford VA 22554, Monday through Friday 1:00 – 6:00PM

*Individuals, churches, military units, or other organizations are welcome to place bulk orders to assist their holiday outreach program. Contact "The Hope Center" for additional information.*

**ALL THANKSGIVING ORDERS CAN BE PICKED UP ON SATURDAY NOVEMBER 20<sup>TH</sup> AT "THE HOPE CENTER"**



## *From the Desk of the Family Readiness Officer*

It is hard to believe that summer vacation is over and the kiddos have been back to school for two months already! I trust one and all had an enjoyable and memorable vacation time and that you are all refreshed and enjoying the spectacular colors of this autumn season.

Here at Marine Corps Systems Command it was quite a busy and eventful summer. We started the summer off with our annual Family Fun Day. In spite of the grueling heat it was a major success and those who were able to attend had a fantastic time. As usual the cooks and servers put on quite a spread, the children were entertained with numerous venues to play, bounce and run around. This year we also had pony rides for the first time and that was a huge success. Start planning now to be part of the fun at next year's Family Fun Day!

A week after this event SYSCOM bid BGen. Brogan a fond farewell as he relinquished command to BGen. Kelley during the Change of Command Ceremony. The Ceremony was well attended by family, friends, members of SYSCOM and Distinguished Guests across the military and civilian spectrum. Make sure you read BGen. Kelley's thoughts on what assuming command of SYSCOM means to him.

In the meantime, the planning has already begun on this year's Christmas/Holiday Social. Let me be the first to inform you that the date is set for 21 December at the Clubs of Quantico from 1330 – 1630 hrs. This year Santa and Mrs. Claus will be paying us a visit and will have several memorable activities for the kiddos. As usual, we will have delicious hors d'oeuvres and holiday beverages. For Marines and their families this is a free event, and the kiddos are out of school, so there really is no reason not to be at this wonderful gathering. Mark your calendars and plan now to attend. See you there!

With the beginning of fall, now is the time to start making your list of things you need to do to prepare for the coming winter and the weather elements it will bring. Set a date now on your calendar on when to make sure your gutters are clear of leaves and debris so when the snow and rain comes they will not back up and cause damage to your roof beneath the shingles (Unfortunately, I speak from experience!). You may also want to think about what things will need to be done to your vehicle so it is winterized: Check tires for tread so you can move through the snow, change/flush anti-freeze, replace wipers, fill all fluid levels. Be prepared so when the inclement weather comes you will be ready. Remember, it wasn't raining when Noah built the Ark!

*SYSCOM'S FAMILY FUN DAY 2010*



## *From the Chaplains:*

# **All I Really Need to Know I Learned at Football Practice**

In 1990 a book by Robert Fulghum was published entitled “All I Really Need to Know I learned in Kindergarten”. It was a pithy book that spoke of sharing, cleaning up your own mess and flushing the toilet. However, I think that all *I* really need to know I learned at *football practice*. I recall Coach Konkle feverishly yelling at us, “Keep your legs driving!” His point was that we had to keep moving forward to open holes for running backs. Coach didn’t want us giving up. He didn’t want us quitting, so now, during hard times in life and thirty-five years later, I find myself reminiscing about his favorite phrase. Then I keep pushing on.

Another lesson I learned was that for every offense there’s also a penalty. Once during a close game I was punched by an opposing player, so I punched him back. “Tweet,” shrilled the whistle as yellow flags flew. “Unsportsmanlike Conduct, number 52, fifteen yards,” the ref yelled. I got caught and cost my team a first down and ultimately the game. At practice on Monday all I did was run laps as Coach Konkle taught me to keep my head when bad things happen and that I will be held accountable for my actions.

However, the most important lesson learned at football practice was not to quit. My team lost 15 out of 16 games in two years, but we never walked off the field. A few games we lost by a score of 52-0 and yet my coach had us back out on the field the next day running drills, learning new plays, and always improving. He never looked back at the last game he only looked forward the next. Some players wanted to quit, but the coach wouldn’t let them. He kept us going, teaching us to be men of the future who would press on no matter what. I guess the main point of this article is that life’s sometimes difficult and it’s hard to keep going. When it is, keep your legs driving. Even if you have done something really bad and it’s caused you lots of trouble, simply remain calm, take responsibility for your actions and don’t quit.

Within the context of my faith, this is put into practice by trusting that the Lord is with me. I can press on through any adversity because I know that no matter how bad it gets He will lead me through my troubles. Certainly, He also holds me accountable for my actions, the devil may have made me do it, but I am still responsible, no one else, but He also forgives.

Finally, know this, you’re on a team – Team USMC – and your chaplains want to help you get back into the game.

**God our Father loved us and by his kindness gave us everlasting encouragement and good hope.**

2 Thessalonians 2:16

# Military Spouse Scholarship

The ***Military Spouse Career Advancement Account (MyCAA)*** program will:

- ✓ Be available to spouses of active duty service members in pay grades E1-E5, W1-W2, and O1-O2.
- ✓ Offer a maximum financial benefit of \$4,000 with a fiscal year cap of \$2,000. Waivers will be available for spouses pursuing licensure or certification up to the total maximum assistance of \$4,000.
- ✓ Require military spouses to finish their program of study within three years from the start date of the first course.
- ✓ Be limited to associate degrees, certification, and licensures.

*The purpose of the program is to assist spouses of active duty service members in achieving portable careers.*

**APPLY for MyCAA  
beginning 25 October 2010 at  
MilitaryOneSource.com**



*Marine Corps Family Team Building's*

# Thanksgiving Holiday Food Baskets

 *Marine families, E-5 and below, experiencing financial hardship are eligible for the food baskets*

 *Applications may be obtained from Unit Representatives*

 *Pick-Up Location Information*

*Date: 23 November 2010*

*Time: 0800-1500*

*Location: Lejeune Hall Parking Lot*

 *For information please call, 703-432-1902 or Unit Family Readiness Officer*

[www.quantico.usmc-mccs.org](http://www.quantico.usmc-mccs.org)





*Spouse* **CAREER DAY**



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*great workshops  
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Bldg 3088, Room A  
**Spouse Employment Workshop**  
Bldg 3089, Room 3



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Lifelong Learning Center, Bldg 3088, Roan Street  
\*Call 703-784-3232 to reserve your spot for these workshops and childcare.  
Space is limited. [www.quantico.usmc-mccs.org](http://www.quantico.usmc-mccs.org)  
\*\*Excludes July 6 September 2010