

# ON POINT

M A R I N E S

EQUIPPING THE WARFIGHTER TO WIN



## ACQUISITION EXCELLENCE DAY

JUNE 2009

MARINE CORPS SYSTEMS COMMAND MAGAZINE  
SUMMER 2009, VOLUME 3, ISSUE 3

- ▶ AE Day awards excellence
- ▶ Dr. Burrow provides direction
- ▶ Marines jump from new heights

# A message from the **COMMANDER**



## **To the Marines, Sailors and Civilian Marines of Marine Corps Systems Command and Program Executive Officer for Land Systems,**

It's always rewarding to bring all of Marine Corps Systems Command (MCSC) headquarters and Program Executive Officer for Land Systems workers together to spotlight their efforts at our annual Acquisition Excellence (AE) Day. This gathering gives us the opportunity to recognize our top performers and hear inspiring words from great leaders. Starting on Page 16, this issue of *Marines on Point* highlights the speakers and awards presented that day.

We also want to introduce you to Dr. John Burrow, MCSC's new Executive Director. Many of you heard him at AE Day as well as other occasions since he has transitioned into this position. For a closer look at his background, thoughts and goals, see "Hard Charger" starting on Page 4.

MCSC has a far-flung presence at events across the nation where we display our support of the Marine Corps and Department of Defense. One of the most recent occasions was the inaugural Marine Week in Chicago. On Pages 24-25, we recapture the week as it unfolded from the perspective of Command people who helped set it up as well as through the eyes of those who attended. General James Conway, Commandant of the Marine Corps initiated this first-of-its-kind outreach and public affairs effort, and our Facilities and Services Team played a key role in making Marine Week a success.

Elsewhere in the magazine, you can read about how MCSC worked in conjunction with other Marine Corps and military services to conduct an unprecedented equipment repositioning operation for our forces arriving in Afghanistan for Operation Enduring Freedom (OEF). The article on Pages 12-13 reviews the planning behind the concept of having equipment placed in theater ahead of arriving forces so they could hit the ground running.

Besides land and water, Marines also have their feet up in the air, as you'll see in our first-hand account, starting on Page 8, about our participation in the new high-altitude parachutist course in Arizona.

In-sourcing is another hot topic that we will look at more in-depth in our fall issue, but we touch upon it briefly in our SysCom News section starting on Page 30. Also coming this fall, we'll look at our newly released Strategic Plan along with acquisition of Mine Resistant Ambush Protected All Terrain Vehicles for OEF.

We face ever greater challenges, and your dedication to the mission is an inspiration.

Semper Fidelis!

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "M.M. Brogan". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

M.M. Brogan  
Brigadier General  
U.S. Marine Corps

# MARINES ON POINT

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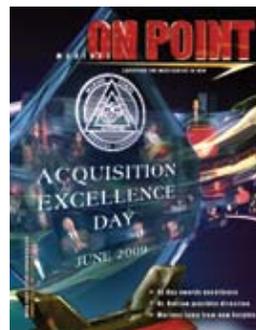
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**On the Cover:** Cover created by Kirk Nelson. Acquisition Excellence (AE) Day photos taken by Bill Johnson-Miles, Laura Bachmann and Lance Corporal Mike Walters. AE Day stories begin on Page 16.





# HARD CHARGER

## New Executive Director presses for success

When Dr. John Burrow stepped into his new role as Marine Corps Systems Command's (MCSC) Executive Director in January, he was primed for action.

For two and a half years he had served as MCSC's Deputy Commander for Systems Engineering, Interoperability, Architectures and Technology

(SIAT). The position proved to be a valuable training ground for learning the ins and outs of the Command after serving more than two decades in civil service for the Navy.

Seeing the acquisition world from the inside was an eye-opener. "I learned about our workforce and relationships within the Command and other organi-

zations, as well as areas and processes that we do well in and others that need some improvement,” he said.

Those insights and overall experiences within the Command weighed heavily in the Executive Review Board’s recommendation that Burrow be selected as Executive Director, a view readily endorsed by Brigadier General Michael Brogan, MCSC Commander.

“As our Deputy Commander SIAT, Dr. Burrow made a lasting impact on the Marine Corps’ combat capability, while saving lives of our Marines, Sailors, Soldiers and Airmen who use our equipment every day,” the Commander said. “He is a leader with an unmatched work ethic, and he stands ready to assist our workforce as we accomplish the Command’s mission.”

In meetings, the Executive Director cuts to the chase and expects those in the room to come prepared, and he leads by example.

He worked diligently to earn his Doctorate of Management degree from the University of Maryland University College, which he received in May. He was equally determined as a defensive back for the University of Mississippi football team where he bumped into Heisman Trophy winner Hershel Walker many times. “I’ve been run over by the best of them,” he said. After graduation, with his Bachelor of Science degree in mathematics in hand, John Burrow touched down into his own pro career with the federal government.

Before he arrived at MCSC, Dr. Burrow served as Department Head, Force Warfare Systems, for the Naval Surface Warfare Center Dahlgren Division. As head of the Force Warfare Systems Department, he led and supervised more than 400 scientists and engineers. He also served as the Naval Sea Systems Command Technical Warrant Holder for Combat and Weapon Control Systems and the Technical Process Owner for Navy Open Architecture.

Coming into his new position, Burrow was keenly aware of the Command’s growing importance within the Marine Corps and Department of Defense (DoD), along with its people’s

Dr. John Burrow, Marine Corps Systems Command’s Executive Director, speaks about competency alignment during a Town Hall in 2007. (Photo by Bill Johnson-Miles)



determination and drive. “The sense of urgency in this Command and in PEO [Program Executive Officer] Land Systems is incredible,” he said. “From day one, it was evident that our workforce is extremely dedicated, bright and committed to meeting the mission of the Command and supporting the acquisition needs of the Marine Corps.”

Part of his job, he explained, is not only to help lead MCSC but also to acquaint and remind outside agencies about what the Command has to offer and how everyone can work together toward a common goal.

“There’s a tremendous technical base available to SYSCOM [MCSC] that’s resident in the Naval Warfare Centers,” Dr. Burrow said. “My objective is for these organizations to become more aware of our technical needs and provide technical support commensurate with that provided to other SYSCOMs.”

Within the Marine Corps, he explained, he wants to increase awareness of the Marine Corps acquisition community. He also would like the Army, Air Force and Navy to “understand our needs and support investments important to the Marine Corps.”

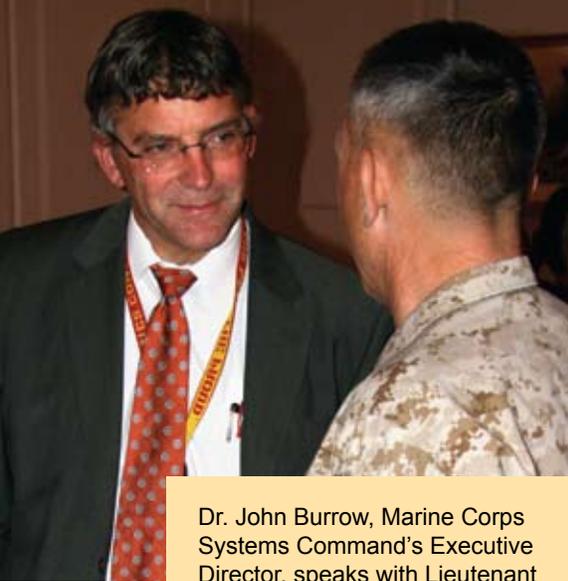
Dr. Burrow’s vision is for the Command “to be the most effective, responsive acquisition organization in DoD. We want to be the employer of choice. We want to attract the best and brightest to come and work for Marine Corps Systems Command and PEO Land Systems.”

He still marvels at a standout example of the Command stepping up to the forefront of effective, responsive acquisition: the Mine Resistant Ambush Protected (MRAP) vehicle program that virtually exploded on the scene.

“I showed up at Marine Corps Systems Command back in June 2006,” he said. “That fall was the first



Dr. John Burrow (at head of table), Marine Corps Systems Command’s Executive Director, conducts a meeting in June with some of Hospital Point’s leadership. (Photo by Jim Katzaman)



Dr. John Burrow, Marine Corps Systems Command's Executive Director, speaks with Lieutenant General George Flynn, Commanding General, Marine Corps Combat Development Command, at an event in April. (Photo by Bill Johnson-Miles)

time I heard the acronym MRAP. At the time they were talking about a couple hundred vehicles. We were looking for a program manager, and we were still kind of uncertain about what this program was going to be.

"Three years later," he continued,

"instead of having a couple hundred vehicles, we have ordered and produced more than 16,000. We have more than 14,800 in theater. We have about 10,100 operational in Iraq. We have close to 2,600 in Afghanistan. It is absolutely amazing to me what this community has been able to do in two and a half years. And the great thing about it is we are saving Marines, Sailors, Airmen, Soldiers and Coalition forces' lives every day. That is absolutely incredible."

As MCSC moves ahead, Burrow said he would like the Command to have a more systems view of the products it develops and to fully exploit technology opportunities. "I see the Marine Air-Ground Task Force as a system of components that we can integrate together to increase effectiveness, interoperability, and ultimately our overall combat capability," he said. "I view technology as a key enabler to making this a reality. We need to encourage industry and universities to invest in and translate technology to meet our functional needs."

Above all, he said, the Command's priority has to be to "support the operational needs of the Marine Corps. That's why MCSC and PEO Land Systems exist. We need to build a model acquisition organization that others attempt to emulate. Developing teaming relationships within the command and with other organizations is essential to our mission. We also need to make sure our workforce has the training, tools and professional working environment necessary to suc-

ceed in the demanding world of defense acquisition."

One of the greatest challenges he sees for the Command is simply "keeping up the pace we've had for the last four or five years." He cautioned against moving too fast and losing sight of the basics.

"If we continue at this speed," Burrow said, "it is possible that this becomes a normal course of action. In the long run, however, we can not afford to move away from acquisition processes and practices that have, over time, proven to be successful and effective."

Burrow was also glad to have completed his doctorate as he entered into the Executive Director position. "It was timely for me to complete my Doctorate degree when I did," he said. "Without a doubt, the things learned in the program have a direct application to my responsibilities as the Executive Director. I am a strong advocate of advanced education. No matter where one is in the workforce, it's important to pursue continuous learning and education."

Away from the work, Dr. Burrow no longer bangs helmets with runaway All-Americans, but sports and football are never far from his mind. He and his wife Vicki have been involved in an assortment of youth sports as their children grew up, coaching teams to a state championship in travel softball and county titles in baseball, softball and basketball.

Then there are the children: Taylor, named for New York Giants linebacker Lawrence Taylor; Jasce, named after his dad; and Peyton, named after Indianapolis Colts quarterback Peyton Manning. Then there's Addison, a non-sports moniker, inspired by a name on a Civil War soldier's gravestone.

The Executive Director hopes he can convey and inspire the same sort of mix of professional drive and personal satisfaction that he felt fortunate to enjoy throughout his career.

"I've been blessed my entire life," Burrow said. "I feel very privileged professionally and personally to work for Marine Corps Systems Command and the Marine Corps. It's a wonderful Command with wonderful people doing great things for our country."

— By Jim Katzaman,  
MCSC Corporate  
Communications



## Tactical power systems surge toward production

When the call went out to propose projects to fund through the economic stimulus bill and American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009, Marine Corps Systems Command (MCSC) was ready. Almost overnight, three power systems had \$10 million in financial backing with production soon to follow.

Within the next three years the Command will deliver On-Board Vehicle Power (OBVP) systems, improved efficiency Environmental Control Units (ECU) and Integrated Trailer ECU Generators (ITEG) to the field. Each system will provide energy savings while enhancing expeditionary power and cooling capabilities.

This was a case of good fortune and good timing, according to Mike Gallagher, Program Manager for Expeditionary Power Systems at MCSC. The team was also prepared for a call, whenever it might come.

“Early in the year the Command had a quick drill to apply for procurement dollars as part of the economic stimulus, if the possibility arose,” Gallagher said. That meant program managers had to prepare their best candidates to meet a short-notice call for projects to fund. “It turned out there would be no funds for procurement,” he said, “but there might be some for research and development, as long as the project could stimulate the energy sector of the country.”

“Everything moved really fast,” said Jonathan Carpenter, Lead Engineer for Expeditionary Power Systems. “Most taskings and data calls happened the same day.” The team had four projects ready to

submit. From those, the Navy selected three as part of its list of 10 to include in its submissions to Secretary of Defense Robert Gates. All three MCSC submissions made the final cut in mid-March.

“I felt very good because we can deliver,” Gallagher said. “Research and development dollars are hard to come by. We were going to look at every possible avenue. Without the stimulus money, we might have had to wait until the 2011 or 2012 budget submissions. Now we have the opportunity to move forward.”

Set for initial delivery in fiscal year 2010 and production in 2011, the ITEG program was funded for \$2.5 million. It will save 20 percent on fuel compared to present generators, provide greater heating and cooling capacity and produce three times the electrical power output. The system will incorporate collective protection for nuclear, biological and chemical contaminated environments. Fifteen to 20 prototype systems will be delivered for testing under the program.

The OBVP, funded for \$4 million, will increase electric power output by five to 10 times along with fuel savings. It also will be delivered in 2010. “Onboard vehicle power demands are increasing at an exponential rate,” Carpenter said. “These projects give us the chance to fulfill and get ahead of future requirements.”

ECUs are used by all communities throughout the Marine Corps. The improved efficiency systems will reduce electric power requirements by up to 20 percent across a family of eight different models.

Budgeted at \$3.5 million for the program, initial delivery is scheduled for late 2009 with production set to start in 2010.

— By Jim Katzaman, MCSC Corporate Communications

Marines operate an eight-ton improved efficiency Environmental Control Unit, one of eight different models that will reduce electric power requirements by up to 20 percent. This is one of three Marine Corps Systems Command projects funded through the economic stimulus bill and American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009. (EPS photo)





## Marine Corps launches new high-altitude parachutist course

Marine Corps high-altitude freefall parachutists have one of the military's most demanding and potentially hazardous advanced skills. Commanders use these highly skilled parachute jumpers to infiltrate enemy areas under the cover of darkness to avoid detection. Amid varying weather conditions and terrain, these Marines jump from extremely high altitudes – so high the aircraft cannot be seen or

heard – and land at their objective as a combat-ready, tactical unit.

To qualify for these high-altitude jumps, Marines are now attending the new Marine Corps Multi-Mission Parachutist Course (MMPC) in Arizona. Michael Thurmond, Marine Corps Systems Command's (MCSC) Freefall Training Coordinator, helped design MMPC, which trains Marines with

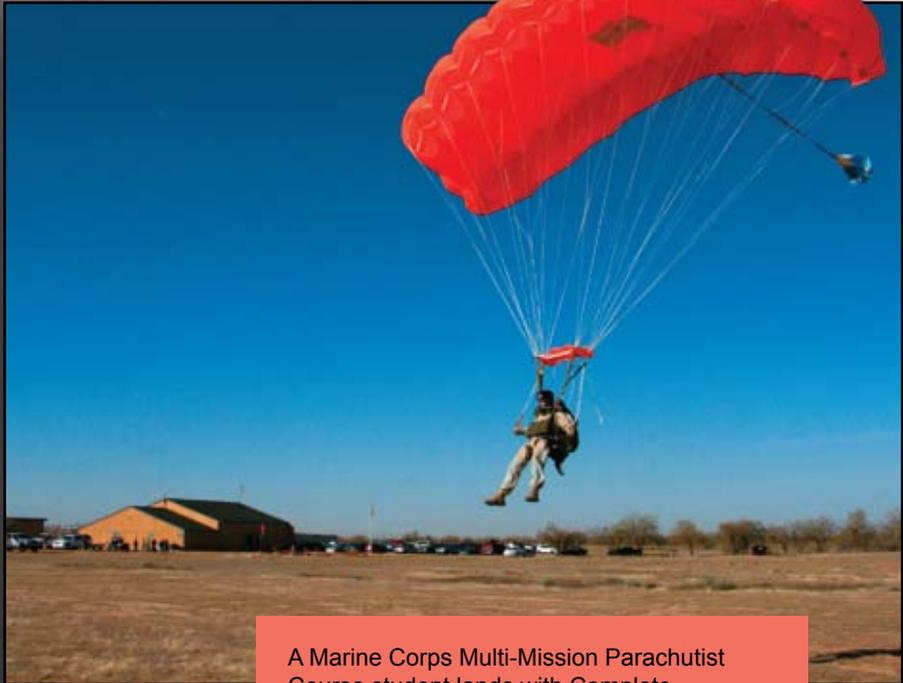
the newer Marine Corps Multi-Mission Parachute System (MMPS).

According to Thurmond, the new course allows the Corps to qualify more Marines each year for high-altitude freefall parachute jumps while cutting down on training time.

“The increased throughput is the biggest advantage,” Thurmond said. “With the Army, we were only training 68 jumpers a year. Now we can train up to 240 Marines a year. And they are training on our own equipment, the way the Marine Corps jumps it. They’re learning on the system they’ll be using, and that’s not only saving time and taxpayers dollars, it’s providing them better training.”

Prior to 2009, Marines attended the Army’s Military Freefall School in Yuma, Ariz., and trained with Army parachutes. After completing the Army course, Marine parachute jumpers had to attend a three-week transition course to become familiar with the Corps’ new MMPS. Today, after completing four weeks of MMPC, students no longer need to attend the transition class.

Complete Parachute Solutions (CPS) conducts MMPC at their Tactical Training Facility (TTF) located at Coolidge Municipal Airport about 57 miles southeast of Phoenix. The service contract for MMPC is a one-year firm fixed-price base contract with four option years. Four of the 24-student classes



A Marine Corps Multi-Mission Parachutist Course student lands with Complete Parachute Solutions’ Tactical Training Facility in the background. (Photo by Bill Johnson-Miles)

are scheduled for fiscal year 2009, and 10 classes are scheduled annually after that.

According to Jim Cowan, CPS TTF General Manager, the instructors are world renown and consist of former military members and civilians. There are eight U.S. Parachute Association-certified instructors working each class, and each instructor has made anywhere from 4,000 to 14,000 jumps. Their experience includes a combined 90,000-plus jumps.

“No one in the world is doing what we’re doing right now,” said Cowan, who has 30 years of experience with parachute jumping. “It’s a way that we here at CPS can serve our country. We can’t fight, but we can train the guys doing the fighting on how to use the new Marine Corps parachute system correctly and safely. It feels good.”

The first MMPC class under the current contract was held in March. However an initial course was



A Marine Corps Multi-Mission Parachutist Course student helps another student inspect his helmet at Complete Parachute Solutions’ Tactical Training Facility in Coolidge, Ariz. (Photo by Bill Johnson-Miles)



A Marine student freefalls during one of his Multi-Mission Parachutist Course jumps over the Tactical Training Facility at Coolidge, Ariz. (Photo by Kevin Duke, Complete Parachute Solutions)

conducted successfully in November 2008 when the Marine Corps graduated its first military freefall class. At that time, 22 Marines, primarily reconnaissance, qualified for high-altitude freefall jumps.

The course consists of 20 training days, including four days with 19 training sessions in the classroom covering basic aircraft procedures, altitude physiology and the MMPS configuration. Students must pass written and practical tests, and complete wind tunnel training before they make their first jump. In the vertical wind tunnel they learn the correct body position and body stabilization while flying. All students make a minimum 30 jumps – at 12,900 feet without oxygen and at 15,000 feet or higher with bailout oxygen systems – advancing to jumping with combat equipment at night.

“We use a crawl, walk, run training system,” said Thurmond, who has made more than 4,500 jumps. “Marines learn to jump Marine Corps equipment the way it’s jumped in the fleet. We have proven that the course works. It’s a phenomenal training program.”

MCSC is scheduled to turn over

Marine Corps Multi-Mission Parachutist Course students and instructors prepare to jump out of a perfectly good aircraft. (Photo by Bill Johnson-Miles)



course responsibility to the Marine Corps Training and Education Command in 2010. MMPC students are mostly from Marine Corps amphibious reconnaissance and special operations units.

“We get a lot of one-on-one training in this course and more one-on-one in the sky,” said Staff Sergeant Israel Garduno, 2nd Marine Special Operations Battalion, a student in the March class. “And we get to watch videos of our jumps. That’s a good tool to have.”

The instructors use video to dissect every jump their students make, helping Marines to become better warfighters.

“We believe in our customers,” said CPS Instructor Josh Seagrave, an Army veteran with 10-plus years of military tactical experience. “What we are doing for warfighters is making them better.”

And they are doing it with the most advanced gear available.

“The Marines have transitioned to the world’s best parachute system there is today,” said CPS Instructor Chane Burk, a 20-year retired Air Force parachutist.

Introduced in 2005, the safety enhancements for the new parachute include a hand-deployed pilot chute that replaces the older spring-loaded parachute. According to Thurmond, the hand-deployed pilot chute is a much cleaner deployment method. Another MMPS addition is a seat for use during High-Altitude High-Opening (HAHO) jumps. These jumps can last up to an hour using the Special Application Parachute, and the seats take pressure



A Marine Corps Multi-Mission Parachutist Course instructor lands at sunrise in the Arizona desert. (Photo by by Bill Johnson-Miles)

off the legs. MMPS also includes a drogue – a small chute deployed before the main chute to slow freefall when jumping with combat equipment.

“In our old legacy system, we’d do a 25,000-foot HAHO, and the opening shocks would literally, in some cases, knock people out because it was so violent,” Thurmond said. “If you start jumping with the MMPS when you’re a Corporal or Sergeant, you can still do it when you’re a Master Sergeant or a Master Gunnery Sergeant just because you’re not taking the beating you were before.”

Besides learning and training with the new MMPS, the course also includes hanging in harnesses to get familiar with safely and emergency procedures. Safety is highly stressed at the TTF.

According to Tom O’Hara, MCSC’s acting MMPS Team Leader, the Army validated the safety and standards of MMPC on their first visit early in 2008. The facility has also been approved and certified by the Naval Safety Center.

“The Center has made four safety assessments and approved all aspects of CPS’s TFF,” O’Hara said. “The Naval Safety Center is required to inspect the facility and course at least once a year. And the facility meets or exceeds all Federal Aviation Administration requirements. They want to make sure our students are getting qualified safely.”

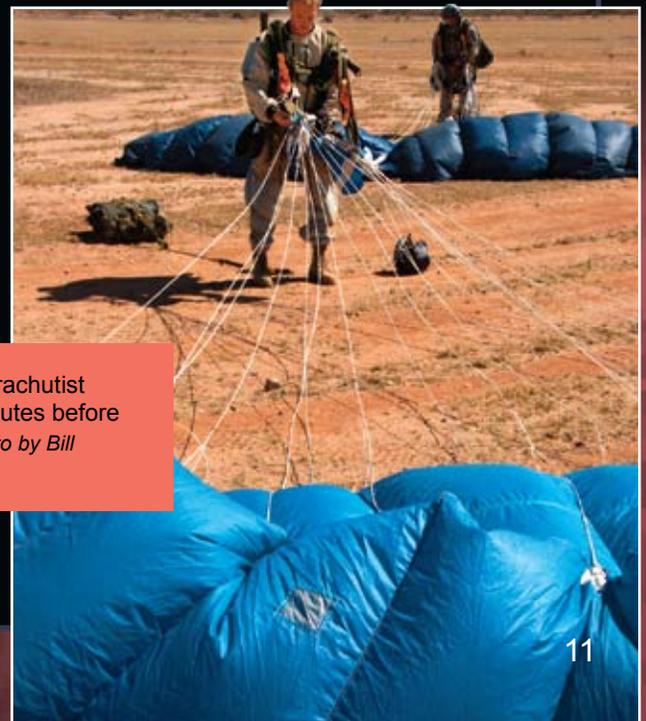
“This course is the tip of the spear,” said Master Gunnery Sergeant Keith

Johnson, Headquarters Marine Corps Safety Division, Naval Safety Center. “It teaches a safer and more efficient process. It will provide huge benefits to the Marine Corps. We’re taking the lead in this type of training and in the concepts used for the training.”

The training provided by MMPC will provide the Marine Corps nearly four times the number of qualified high-altitude freefall parachute jumpers.

“We are giving more commanders the ability to insert more Marines deep into the theater undetected,” Seagrave said. “We’re giving Marines a tool to take back to the fleet and help make the world safer.”

– By Bill Johnson-Miles, MCSC Corporate Communications



Two Marine Corps Multi-Mission Parachutist Course students gather their parachutes before returning to the training facility. (Photo by Bill Johnson-Miles)

## MCSC orchestrates equipment prepositioning for OEF

As a career artilleryman, Gunnery Sergeant Jason Whisenhunt could be forgiven if he felt out of his comfort zone. From March 1 until April 16 he was the Marine Corps Systems Command (MCSC) point person for an unprecedented equipment prepositioning operation at the Marine Corps Blount Island Command near Jacksonville, Fla.

“It was pretty impressive,” he said, looking back on the initial 28 “hectic days” that typically started at 6 a.m. and continued through 10 p.m. to get thousands of pieces of gear prepared and loaded for shipment to Afghanistan.

By the end of May all the equipment needed to fight a war – much of it fresh off the assembly line – was delivered to forward operating bases to await the arrival of the 2nd Marine Expeditionary Brigade (MEB). Unlike past conflicts, Marines will not travel to the front with their gear on their backs. Instead, they can open boxes or turn the keys when they arrive.

While at Blount

Island, Whisenhunt learned “on the fly” how to work with a host of agencies and commands to move huge amounts of supplies and equipment onto ships – “I don’t have a clue how much there was, I just know we moved a lot” – managers at MCSC at Quantico, Va., had their own steep learning curve.

Julie Mattocks, Deputy Operations Manager for MCSC, said work started in October 2008 with general talk about how to globally source an MEB. The common practice had been to load Marine units with all the equipment and supplies they would need at their home stations, and then send them off to the war zone. Too often, however, when Marines returned, their equipment would stay behind to support the next rotation of warfighters.

“We have a lot of gear in Iraq, but as a result of fighting the war since 2004 we have created a lot of holes at the home stations,” Mattocks said. Rather than drain more equipment and supplies from U.S. bases, she explained, the question became how to sustain the force in Iraq while at the same time equipping an MEB for a new theater.

With this in mind, the Strategic Ground Equipment Working Group (SGEWG) convened to weigh options for having equipment placed in theater ahead of arriving forces so they could hit the ground running. This would be especially important for the influx of Marines into Operation Enduring Freedom (OEF) in Afghanistan. The working group was established under the cognizance of the Deputy Commandant, Installations and Logistics; and the Deputy Commandant, Plans, Policies and Operations. Additional membership includes representatives from Aviation; C4; Combat Development,



Combat Logistics Battalion 3's Private First Class Joshua Bender fires an M240B 7.62 mm medium machinegun while Gunnery Sergeant Rudy Rodriguez coaches him during crew-served weapons training at Tarnak Farm Range in Afghanistan. Marine Corps Systems Command shipped 188 M240B machineguns to Afghanistan as part of a prepositioning operation equipping the 2nd Marine Expeditionary Brigade. (Photo by Lance Corporal Ronald Stauffer)



# Ready and Waiting

Marine Corps Systems Command shipped 232 mine rollers to Afghanistan as part of a prepositioning operation equipping the 2nd Marine Expeditionary Brigade. (Marine Corps photo)

Commander; MCSC; Programs and Resources; and Marine Corps Logistics Command.

“The Strategic Ground Equipment Working Group was never intended to be a sourcing solution,” Mattocks said. “But when the powers that be decided to source the MEB, it made sense to use the SGEWG, as the group was already in place and had all the key players as chartered members.”

As part of its preparations, the group created an Equipment Density List (EDL) in December 2008. “It’s a huge spreadsheet developed by Systems Command,” Mattocks said, pulling out a hefty, large binder of printouts. “We wanted to make sure we were all on the same sheet of music for our strategic plan. It’s a tremendous amount of information tracked by every product group.”

The volume, listing more than 26,000 principle end items, represented inputs from I, II and III Marine Expeditionary Forces; Marine Corps Forces Command; Marine Corps Forces Pacific; MCSC; and Marine Corps Logistics Command.

Just listing the items needed was not enough. “We went through the EDL line by line,” Mattocks said. Every item had to be verified as a genuine need while making sure nothing had been missed.

The prepositioning plan sprang from the drawing board to reality when the OEF execution order was given in February with everything positioned by March 6 at Blount Island, which is where Whisenhunt came into play as MCSC liaison officer.

“Every item had to have a phased delivery plan so the folks at Blount Island knew what was coming in and how it was to be staged,” Mattocks said. “Gunny



Whisenhunt had to report on the status of the equipment when it arrived and when it was loaded on one of five vessels.”

Anything that did not make it onto a vessel from the production line had to be worked through U.S. Transportation Command cargo specialists at Dover Air Force Base, Del., for shipment. MCSC also worked with Marine Corps Logistics Command to develop unit line numbers to move more gear to Afghanistan. Working together with working group partners, Mattocks was pleased to say MCSC met the goals for prepositioning more than 20,280 principle end items at Blount Island Command for onward movement.

“I was very proud of our Command because this was not easy,” she said. “It took teamwork across the entire Command to pull it off. Going into this cold, we did not know what to expect. We really had to work well with higher headquarters and adjacent commands.”

The work, she added, continues. “Even today we’re changing the EDL,” Mattocks said. “We’ve done the work for the first wave of the Regimental Combat Team [RCT],” she said. “Next year we’ll have to do it again for RCT 2. That means a lot of equipment will have to be deployed in Kuwait to support them.”

— By Jim Katzaman, MCSC Corporate Communications

From the Marine Corps Blount Island Command in Florida, four ships, including the Alliance Norfolk (pictured), transported all the equipment needed to fight a war to forward operating bases in Afghanistan for the 2nd Marine Expeditionary Brigade. Marine Corps Systems Command arranged for five shiploads of gear to be delivered, with one ship making two trips. (Hoegh photo)

## Contractors, customers depend on CEOss for fast, reliable service

With only a few people, Commercial Enterprise Omnibus Support Services (CEOss) carries quite a load. Less than a dozen program management and contracting specialists generate more than \$1 million worth of service contracts every day for Marine Corps Systems Command (MCSC).

“If vendors need contractor support, they come to CEOss,” said Patty Mitchell, Director of the Acquisition Center for Support Services (ACSS), the organization that manages CEOss.

Since August 2002, CEOss has been the central point for acquisition of services, which means that type of expertise does not have to reside in other organizations within MCSC.

“This has been a very successful program

for us,” said Brigadier General Michael Brogan, Commander, MCSC. “It has helped drive down our costs and makes it much easier for us to forecast what we are going to spend on contractor support.”

CEOss’ multiple-award blanket purchase-agreement contracts support MCSC in all aspects of acquisition, engineering, logistics and technology. CEOss task orders are derived from four functional domains of support. They include engineering and scientific services; acquisition, logistics and administrative services; business and analytical services; and specialty engineering services.

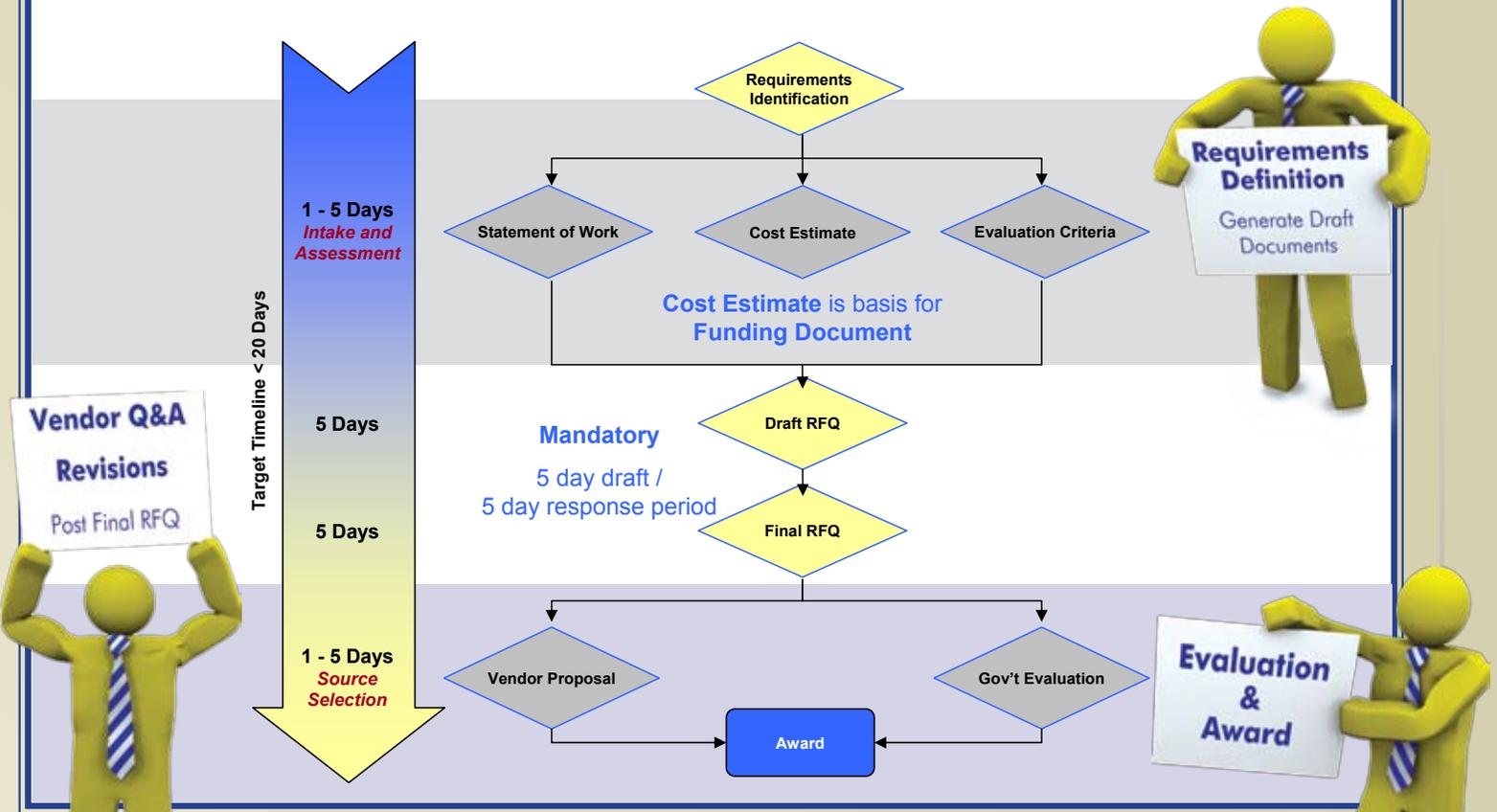
The CEOss business model is based on competitive sourcing, performance-based practices and commercial acquisition principles. ACSS issues blanket purchase agreements with Federal Supply Schedule contractors to fill repetitive needs for technical services. The agreements are competitively awarded, and contractor performance is reviewed annually to determine how current and future technical requirements are being applied.

CEOss has a relatively small and trusted community of vendors. There are 33 prime vendors across all four domains. These vendors provide the teams, each composed of about 22 subcontractors, that support more than 200 MCSC industry partners.

With its dedication to meeting contractor and customer needs, Mitchell explained, “CEOss and the considerable revenue it generates have established a contractor-rich community in the local area. This creates a more competitive environment and provides the Command with greater access to contractors and their skill sets.”



## CEOss Customer Process Model



CEOss employs four program management specialists, six contract specialists and a contractor for overall support. In less than seven years the group has awarded more than \$1.7 billion in task orders, which translates to more than \$1 million per day.

“That’s a significant load,” said Vicki Whiteman, CEOss Contracting Officer. “It’s very dynamic, and we’re very busy all the time. The majority of the work is done by our contract specialists. They all work together and deserve all the credit.”

Task orders are awarded with a performance-based firm fixed price. They have up to a 12-month base period and two renewal options. “This way the contractors and our customers know they can get up to three years and continuity of support from us,” Mitchell said.

Churning out more than \$400 million worth of task orders per year is a sprint from start to finish. Starting with requirements identification and continuing through statements of work, cost estimates, requests for quotation, vendor proposals, government evaluation and award, the entire process averages only 20 days.

“That’s a lot to do in 20 days,” Mitchell said, “but we can do it. We get a lot of positive feedback in that regard. From the contractors’ perspective, although challenging, they like the quick turnaround time; they know very quickly whether they were the successful offeror or not. Our customers, on the other hand, appreciate that they can come to ACSS where we can help them in the process and get them support in a timely manner, without a lapse in service.”

The standardized process benefits vendors, she added, “because all the paperwork looks very much the same; they know what to expect and can respond accordingly. This gives them the opportunity for a greater share of the market.”

The CEOss client base of 1,300 customers reaches far beyond MCSC and the rest of the Marine Corps. Other agencies have tapped onto CEOss’ rapid, high-quality work and like what they see. Similar ventures are on tap for the Navy and elsewhere.

“Headquarters and others use CEOss because they like our model,” Mitchell said, agreeing that imitation is the sincerest form of flattery.

– By Jim Katzaman, MCSC Corporate Communications

# PAUSE FOR

## AE Day spotlights achievements, bids caution for future

For Sean Stackley, the sentiment was real and heartfelt. The Assistant Secretary of the Navy (ASN) for Research, Development and Acquisition (RDA) said, “I brag about you every chance I get.”

He spoke to the hundreds of Marine Corps Systems Command (MCSC) and Program Executive Officer for Land Systems (PEO LS) employees who gathered June 3 at the Hylton Event Center in Woodbridge, Va., for the annual Acquisition Excellence (AE) Day. He was one of several speakers who addressed the event’s theme, “Leadership and Management When the Going Gets Tough.”

According to the AE Day committee led by Dick Bates, MCSC’s Assistant Commander for Programs, the yearly event focuses on the professional and personal development and growth of the MCSC workforce. The committee brings in speakers from across government and industry to expose the commands to new and innovative ideas, to motivate and teach, and to impart methodologies and practices that can aid MCSC and PEO LS in reaching its goals of high-performance and team-based learning.

In addition to the keynote speaker, the audience heard from Medal of Honor recipient retired Air Force Colonel Leo Thorsness and retired Marine Corps Lieutenant Colonel Robert Darling. Individuals and teams from throughout MCSC and PEO LS also received awards for their accomplishments (*Pages 19-20*).

Brigadier General Michael Brogan, MCSC Commander, said AE Day lets workers “take time to pause and reflect on the challenges of the past year and to think ahead to the next fiscal year.”

He put the Command’s vastly expanded workload into perspective. “We had an unprecedented amount of money – \$22.4 billion – come into the hands of our comptrollers,” he said. “But \$13.8 billion was Army money just for MRAP [Mine Resistant Ambush Protected vehicles]. So, the Army spent more for MRAP than the Marine Corps spent in total.”

Whatever the source of the funds, the Brigadier General said, “Our number one priority is to support our forward-deployed Marines engaged in combat.” He cited the other priorities – grow the force, reset the force, modernization and recapitalization – to show how everyone in the Command has a full load of work and responsibilities.

The Marine Corps Systems Command and Program Executive Officer for Land Systems team listened to three guest speakers at the Hylton Event Center in Woodbridge, Va., during the annual Acquisition Excellence Day in June. (Photo by Bill Johnson-Miles)



# PRAISE

“You all accomplish the entire acquisition process, short of aviation, for the Marine Corps,” he said. “So, it’s appropriate to take this time to recognize our stellar performers. We have plenty of challenges. The merry-go-round is not slowing down any time soon, but don’t neglect yourselves. Make sure you take time off this summer to rest and recharge.”

Mr. Stackley took on the General’s points and assured everyone they command equal attention and respect at the Pentagon for their fine work at MCSC and PEO LS.

“The size of this organization compared to what you contribute to this nation is awesome,” he said. “As we consider the fight we’re in and the challenges we’re certain to confront, the nation will look to you to deliver systems that will bring our warriors home safely. Therein lies the true measure of acquisition excellence.”

Referring to the heavy burden borne at both commands, he quoted legendary University of Alabama football coach Paul “Bear” Bryant: “You never know how a horse will pull until you hook him up to a heavy load. Well, you have been hooked up to a heavy load, and you’re pulling hard.”

He told everyone not to lose sight of their primary mission.

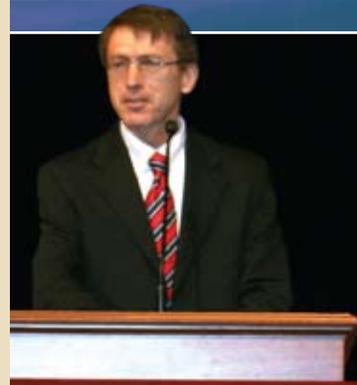
“For the Marine Corps,” Stackley said, “our force structure has always been about the Marine. From the Commandant to the recruit, every Marine is a rifleman. That explains the ethos. Our mission is to support the Marine. Your message [at MCSC and PEO LS] is loud and clear. It is modest, passionate and focused. It hits home.”

He noted accomplishments during the last few years that have saved warfighters’ lives:

With MRAP “you turned a cottage industry into the biggest program in the Department of Defense,” he said. “America can’t thank you enough.”

Regarding body armor, “Marine Corps Systems

Mr. Sean Stackley, Assistant Secretary of the Navy for Research, Development and Acquisition, spoke to the Marine Corps Systems Command and Program Executive Officer for Land Systems workforce gathered at the Hylton Event Center in Woodbridge, Va., during the annual Acquisition Excellence Day in June.



Sherilyn Harrell of Infantry Weapons Systems asks the Assistant Secretary of the Navy for Research, Development and Acquisition a question during the annual Acquisition Excellence Day in June. (Photo by Bill Johnson-Miles)

Command led the way,” the ASN (RDA) added. “No one else can match your passion.”

“Beyond winning the war we’re in,” he said, “we need to look to the future. The EFV [Expeditionary Fighting Vehicle] program was restructured two years ago with a new focus on system engineering. It has earned the confidence of the Department of Defense and Congress for future success.

“Thank you for all your efforts day in and day out,” Mr. Stackley added. “Our emphasis is on the acquisition workforce. You’ve been drawn down too far and too long. We want to look at how to rebuild our workforce that’s been asked to do so much with so little.”

If anyone was asked to do much – or merely



Retired Air Force Colonel Leo Thorsness, a Medal of Honor recipient, shared his experience as a Vietnam prisoner of war with the Marine Corps Systems Command and Program Executive Officer for Land Systems team at the Hylton Event Center in Woodbridge, Va., during the annual Acquisition Excellence Day in June. (Photo by Bill Johnson-Miles)



survive – with very little, the second guest speaker fit the bill. Thorsness earned his Medal of Honor for flying a combat mission in Vietnam. He talked, however, about his six years of torture as a prisoner of war. He could relate to “When the Going Gets Tough.”

“When crunch time comes,” he said, “you need someone you can depend on. Wingmen were an integral part of my team. If all levels of the team did their job that day, we’d be successful. If

any level of the team failed, we would likely not succeed and become prisoners of war.”

He related his dire circumstances behind prison walls to acquisition professionals doing their best in their daily work, and he found common threads.

“Do what’s right. Help others,” he said. “That was our mantra, along with the Code of Conduct. You have to have a will to succeed. Don’t just quit. Remember brotherly love. If they know you care, that helps. We have good people. Let them help you.”

He also emphasized the importance of keeping life and work in perspective. He said when the prisoners listed the top subjects they discussed among themselves – often in tap codes – friends, family, faith and fun came first. Work ranked 17th.

“Don’t get so wrapped up in your life that you forget the most important items,” he said.

Darling, the third guest speaker, talked about Sept. 11, 2001. The former presidential helicopter pilot gave everyone his insight into the terrorists’ attack on America as seen from the unique perspective of the White House Situation Room, where he was pulled in to serve on that infamous day.

“It was no-kidding crisis leadership in action,” he said as he described no-holds-barred exchanges between Vice President Richard Cheney and National Security Advisor Condoleezza Rice as they made fast life-or-death decisions to defeat an unknown threat.

Even if MCSC and PEO LS people do not face terrorists or prison guards in their daily work, the speakers concurred that their examples showed the importance of teamwork and leadership.

“We had exceptional guest speakers,” said Dr. John Burrow, taking his first opportunity to address a large audience of employees after his selection as MCSC Executive Director. “It’s good to have a day to get out of the office and celebrate the accomplishments of our workforce.”

He, too, praised workers throughout both commands, but concerning what awaits them in the future, he offered cautions.

“It’s not going to get any easier this year,” he said. “We’ll have many needs and commitments to support our Marines in Afghanistan and Iraq. In addition, the significant increase in hiring, although welcome, will create new challenges to our support staffs to accommodate the new hires. But I am confident, as always, you will get it done.”

“Mr. Stackley’s comments to the workforce are spot on and well felt,” Burrow said. “He genuinely believes that we’re doing the right thing and pushing the ball forward.”

The Executive Director added, “It takes more than the acquisition professional community to perform our mission.” He pointed to the roles of security, facilities maintenance and public affairs, among others based at Quantico, Va., and at sites throughout the country. “It takes a team to get this job done.”

– By Jim Katzaman, MCSC Corporate Communications

Members of the Marine Corps Systems Command and Program Executive Officer for Land Systems team visited the many kiosks and static displays during the annual Acquisition Excellence Day in June. (Photo by Laura Bachmann)



# MCSC, PEO LS team members honored for 2008 achievements

At the annual Acquisition Excellence (AE) Day on June 3, Marine Corps Systems Command (MCSC) and Program Executive Officer for Land Systems (PEO LS) handed out 35 awards during three ceremonies. The later two ceremonies honored individuals and teams earning the Commander's 2008 Honorary Awards. Nominations for these awards totaled 137 for 15 categories. (All the AE Day award winners are listed on Page 20.)

The first ceremony honored winners of the Marine Corps 2008 Awards for Acquisition Innovation and Excellence. For these awards the "nominees were recommended to Brigadier General Michael Brogan [Commander, MCSC] by a board of senior acquisition officers and civilian professionals, and were selected by the Commandant of the Marine Corps," said Captain Jordan Spahr, AE Day's awards narrator. "These award winners carry on the examples set by those for whom these awards are named."

These prestigious annual Marine Corps awards, established in 2002, are named for Andrew J. Higgins, Eugene M. Stoner and Donald Roebing. They headed programs that designed, developed, produced and sustained three critical items of war-fighting equipment, each leaving a major and enduring impact on the Marine Corps. The Higgins Boat carried the Allies to victory in World War II; Marine infantrymen carried Stoner's M16 rifle throughout events in Southwest Asia; and for more than 50 years, Roebing's Amphibious Tractor paved the route for modern amphibious force operations. The Higgins award honors a Marine Corps officer; the Stoner award goes to a Marine staff noncommissioned officer; and a Marine Corps civilian acquisition professional receives the Roebing award.

Sean Stackley, Assistant Secretary of the Navy for

John Garner received the Roebing award (above), Captain Jason Anderson received the Higgins award (right) and Master Gunnery Sergeant Tony Aldredge received the Stoner award (below) at the Hylton Event Center in Woodbridge, Va., during the annual Acquisition Excellence Day in June. (Photos by Lance Corporal Mike Walters)



Research, Development and Acquisition, along with MCSC and PEO LS leadership, presented the Higgins award to Captain Jason Anderson of Armor and Fire Support Systems, the Stoner award to Master Gunnery Sergeant Tony Aldredge with Ground Transportation and Engineering Systems, and the Roebing award to John Garner, another member of Armor and Fire Support Systems. Their names are now on plaques displayed on the quarter-deck (main entrance) of MCSC's headquarters building at Quantico, Va.

"These awards serve to recognize individuals for their superior professional excellence and/or innovation in pursuit of the acquisition, fielding and support of systems and equipment to the operating forces," Spahr added.

— By Bill Johnson-Miles, MCSC Corporate Communications

INNOVATION  
& EXCELLENCE



# AE Day Awards

## Marine Corps Awards for Acquisition Innovation and Excellence for Achievements in 2008

### Andrew J. Higgins Award

Captain Jason Anderson  
Armor and Fire Support Systems

### Eugene M. Stoner Award

Master Gunnery Sergeant Tony Aldredge  
Ground Transportation and Engineering Systems

### Donald Roebing Award

John Garner  
Armor and Fire Support Systems

## Commander's Honorary Awards for Achievements in 2008

### Excellence in Program Management

#### Individual Award

Robert McKenzie

Ground Transportation and Engineer Systems

#### Team Awards

Expeditionary Fire Support System & Internally Transportable Vehicle Team  
Combat Convoy Simulator Team

### Excellence in Contract Management

#### Individual Award

Jennifer Sellers

Contracts

#### Team Award

Program Executive Officer for Land Systems, Contracting Team

### Lawrence P. Kreitzer Leadership Award

Michelle Cresswell-Atkinson

Joint Program Office, Mine Resistant Ambush Protected Vehicles



Valerie Mosqueira accepts the Excellence in Contract Management team award for the Program Executive Officer for Land Systems (PEO LS) Contracting Team from Dr. John Burrow (center), Executive Director, Marine Corps Systems Command, and William Taylor, PEO LS. (Photo by Lance Corporal Mike Walters)

### Excellence in Engineering

#### Individual Award

Robert Barnabi

Combat Equipment and Support Systems

#### Team Awards

Joint Program Office, Mine Resistant Ambush Protected Vehicles, Engineering South Team  
Ground/Air Task Oriented Radar Engineering Team

### Excellence in Information Technology

#### Individual Award

Donna Eggert

Marine Corps Tactical Systems Support Activity

#### Team Award

Total Force Structure Management Systems Team

### Excellence in Operational Research and Systems Analysis

#### Individual Award

Major Stephen Mount

Programs

### Excellence in Provisioning

#### Individual Award

John Andrews

MAGTF C2, Weapons & Sensors Development & Integration

#### Team Award

Common Laser Range Finder Transition Integrated Product Team

### Excellence in Financial Management

#### Individual Award

Dana Angellotti

Training Systems

#### Team Award

Vendor Pay Team

### Excellence in Staff Support

#### Individual Award

Captain Eric Taylor

Marine Corps Tactical Systems Support Activity

#### Team Award

Program Executive Officer for Land Systems, Common Aviation Command and Control System Team

### Customer Focus Awards

#### Individual Award

Major Joon Um

Marine Corps Tactical Systems Support Activity

#### Team Award

Chief Information Officer Service Desk and Information Assurance Team



Patricia Shaw accepts the Excellence in Provisioning team award for the Common Laser Range Finder Transition Integrated Product Team from Brigadier General Michael Brogan, Commander, Marine Corps Systems Command. (Photo by Lance Corporal Mike Walters)

### Innovation Awards

#### Individual Award

Captain Donald Mayo

Marine Corps Tactical Systems Support Activity

#### Team Award

Simulation and Stimulation Team

### Knowledge Management Awards

#### Individual Award

Andreas Casey

Marine Corps Tactical Systems Support Activity

#### Team Award

Electronic Weapon Record Book Team

### Teamwork Awards

#### Individual Award

Keith Davis

Armor and Fire Support Systems

#### Team Award

Unmanned Systems Team

### Excellence in Logistics

#### Individual Award

Richard Sessions

MAGTF C2, Weapons & Sensors Development & Integration

#### Team Award

Plans and Executions Team

### Command Vision Achievement Awards

#### Individual Awards

Ronald Willis

Marine Corps Tactical Systems Support Activity

Major Bradley Pennella

Armor and Fire Support Systems

#### Team Award

Marine Corps Tactical Systems Support Activity Deployed Support Team

## Marine Corps Systems Command Awardees

### Legion of Merit

Colonel Frank Kelly  
PM TRASYS

### Meritorious Service Medal

Colonel Brian Buckles  
PEO LS

Lieutenant Colonel Daryl Crane  
PEO LS

Lieutenant Colonel James Graeme  
MCTSSA

Lieutenant Colonel Peter Hart  
MCTSSA

Lieutenant Colonel Michael Huddle  
C-IED

Lieutenant Colonel David Yost  
CINS

Major John Bowes  
PM TRASYS

Major Scott Kemp  
GCSS-MC

Major Mathew Pfeffer  
PEO LS

Major Innes Quiroz  
PM LAV

Major Joon Um  
MCTSSA

Captain Jeffrey Wrobel  
MCTSSA

Captain Matthew Nieland  
CINS

Chief Warrant Officer Five Darryl Davis Jr.  
IWS

Chief Warrant Officer Four Robert Warnick  
GTES

Chief Warrant Officer Four Daniel Wittcop  
AFSS

Chief Warrant Officer Three  
Jessica Donnell  
PM AMMO

Chief Warrant Officer Three Scott Shaw  
GTES

Sergeant Major Brenda Jackson  
MCTSSA

Master Gunnery Sergeant Timothy Creeden  
MCTSSA

Master Gunnery Sergeant Daniel Ramirez  
CESS

Master Sergeant David Everly  
GCSS-MC

Senior Chief Petty Officer Eugenio Bacordo  
IWS

Gunnery Sergeant John Caraway  
CINS

### Navy/Marine Corps Commendation Medal

Major Andrew Belovarac  
Staff Secretary

Major Todd Butler  
PM TRASYS

Major Alfred Hammett  
GCSS-MC

Major Keith Kovats  
PEO LS

Major John Medeiros  
PEO LS

Major Jody White  
IWS

Captain Brandon Shaw  
CINS

Chief Warrant Officer Four  
Mark Fernandez  
MCTSSA

Master Gunnery Sergeant  
Roosevelt Crawley  
CESS

Master Sergeant Timothy Freeman  
PM AMMO

Master Sergeant Brian Wensel  
CINS

Gunnery Sergeant Patrick Emmons  
PEO LS

Gunnery Sergeant Micheal Exlos  
CINS



Marine Corps Systems Command (MCSC) recently conducted a Command recognition ceremony for mentors and mentees. MCSC's mentoring program is administered by the Workforce Management and Development Directorate. According to program officials, mentoring helps to retain and refresh workers by providing second-to-none professional development opportunities. It gives people the opportunity to learn more about their chosen career field from a more experienced professional who has walked the road on which they now find themselves. *(Photo by Jim Katzaman)*

## Marine Corps Systems Command Awardees

Gunnery Sergeant Jerry Moss  
PEO LS

Gunnery Sergeant Nicholas Pereira  
MCTSSA

Staff Sergeant Rodney Simpson  
IWS

Staff Sergeant Richard White  
MCTSSA

### Superior Civilian Service Award

Marilyn Thomas  
RES MGMT

### Meritorious Civilian Service Award

James Batton  
MRAP JPO

Thomas Carmody  
MRAP JPO

Lynn Frazier  
MRAP JPO

Maria Lenore  
RES MGMT

David Marr  
CT

Daniel Pierson  
PEO LS

William Randolph  
CT

Kim Yarboro  
MRAP JPO

### Global War on Terrorism Medal

Daniel Ortiz  
MCTSSA

Eric Healey  
MCTSSA

Steven Boyle  
IWS

Stephen Oakley  
MCTSSA



Brigadier General Michael Brogan (left), Commander, Marine Corps Systems Command, presents Lieutenant Colonel Michael Huddle, Counter Improvised Explosive Technologies, with the Meritorious Service Medal in April *(Photo by Bill Johnson-Miles)*

Bradley Detwiler  
MCTSSA

Randall Rockey  
MCTSSA

Glen McKenzie  
MCTSSA

John Bowlds  
MCTSSA

### Certificate of Retirement

David Marr  
CT

### Federal Length of Service

Richard Govoni (40 Yrs)  
LCL

Martin Bushika (35 Yrs)  
PM TRASYS

Paul Gregory (35 Yrs)  
IWS

Sandra Fenwick (35 Yrs)  
SIAT

Vickie King (35 Yrs)  
ISI

George Morrison (35 Yrs)  
PM AMMO

James Ripley (35 Yrs)  
AFSS

Wilson Staggers (35 Yrs)  
IWS

David Bland (30 Yrs)  
IWS

Steven Costa (30 Yrs)  
RES MGMT

Keith Davis (30 Yrs)  
AFSS

Robyn Fait (30 Yrs)  
CINS

Darlene Price (30 Yrs)  
OFS

## Marine Corps Systems Command Awardees



Dave Marr presents his wife Micaela with a certificate of appreciation during his retirement luncheon in May. At the luncheon during the retirement ceremony, Marr received the Meritorious Civilian Service Award. The award covers the past 12 years. During this period Marr served as the Lead Procuring Contracting Officer for Infantry Weapons System as well as the Program Manager for Ammunition. He was directly responsible for procuring and administering an inventory of active contracts exceeding \$1 billion. *(Photo by Bill Johnson-Miles)*

Elizabeth Nichols (30 Yrs)  
ISI

Martin Kane (30 Yrs)  
PEO LS, LW 155

Brenda Keiper (30 Yrs)  
CT

Basil Moncrief (30 Yrs)  
MC2I

Lenore Boissiere (25 Yrs)  
ISI

David Branham (25 yrs)  
PEO LS

Robin Destackelberg (25 Yrs)  
LCL

Vincent Ellis (25 Yrs)  
IWS

David Garafalo (25 Yrs)  
MC2I

George Herndon (25 Yrs)  
CT

Brenda Hines (25 Yrs)  
GCSS-MC

Robert Huggins (25 Yrs)  
CINS

Cynthia Lewis (25 Yrs)  
RES MGMT

Paula Love (25 Yrs)  
ISI

Cassandra Miller (25 Yrs)  
CT

William Wall (25 Yrs)  
PM AMMO

Karen Ream (25 Yrs)  
PM TRASYS

Suzanne Rupert (25 Yrs)  
PM TRASYS

Theresa Conte (20 Yrs)  
CINS

Suzanne Deer (20 Yrs)  
PEO LS

Richard Halcisak (20 Yrs)  
SIAT

Mark Harris (20 Yrs)  
AFSS

Charlette Hudson (20 Yrs)  
MRAP JPO

Lindo Ngo (20 Yrs)  
PEO LS

Regina North (20 Yrs)  
IP

John Olsavsky (20 Yrs)  
PROG

Sherri Payne (20 Yrs)  
PROG

Annette Pike (20 Yrs)  
PM TRASYS

Denise Rossi (20 Yrs)  
PEO LS

Elizabeth Taylor (20 Yrs)  
Command Staff

Michael Tyson (20 Yrs)  
GCSS-MC



Colonel Joseph Shrader is pinned with his new rank insignia by members of his family during a promotion ceremony in March. The Colonel will officially replace Colonel Edward Smith Aug. 21 as the new Product Group Director for Combat Equipment and Support Systems. *(Photo by Bill Johnson-Miles)*



## Chicago welcomes Marines for inaugural celebration

The Marines have landed! More than 2,000 of them descended on the Chicago area May 11-17 to launch Marine Week, a new outreach and public affairs effort initiated by General James Conway, Commandant of the Marine Corps.

The event was designed to give the Marine Corps a stronger presence in the Chicago region, where there aren't as many Marines.

"We don't have as much visibility in the Midwest," said Captain Nathan Braden, a Marine Week spokesman. "The location just made sense. We want to showcase the Marine Corps to the citizens of Chicago."

Marine Corps Systems Command (MCSC) set up static displays inside and around Chicago's Navy Pier, giving the public the chance to see, touch and even play with some of its latest technology and equipment used on today's battlefield.

"We are reaching out to the people of Chicago to show them what the Marine Corps brings to the table and where we fit in," said Colonel Shawn Reinwald, MCSC Product Group Director for Infantry Weapons Systems. "It's fun for us because, as much as we're giving to Chicago, I think we're getting a lot out of having the public come by, take a look at the equipment that we're fielding and show off what we've been doing for the



Captain Chris Athanas, a Marine Corps Systems Command Project Officer for the Saber Wire Command-Linked Missile System (TOW), explains the Saber TOW to a visitor on Chicago's Navy Pier during Marine Week. (Photo by Jennifer Gonzalez)

past five years or so."

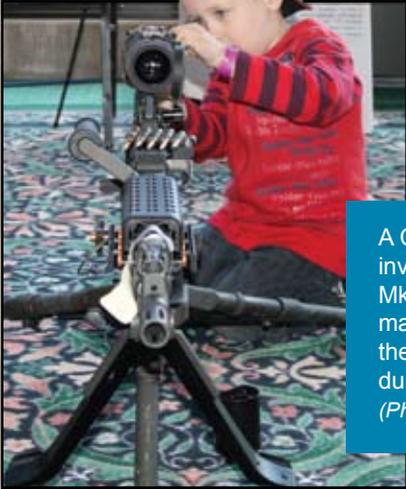
The goal of the inaugural Marine Week was to increase public awareness of the Marine Corps' value to the nation's defense.

"The idea behind Marine Week is great," said Sergeant Christopher Bay, a Marine reservist from the Chicago area. "A lot of people don't get to see what actually goes on in the Marine Corps, and this gives us the opportunity to explain what we do."

It also provided an opportunity for the citizens of greater Chicago to meet Marines as well as see first-hand the latest capabilities of today's fighting force.

"This is a great format for us to be able to show our wares and what we're doing for the Marines in the operational forces to the general public," said Chief Warrant Officer David Cabrera, MCSC's Project Officer for Tactical Data Networks. "Here, they get to see Marines and the gear we're using, how we're employing it and ask a lot of really great questions. So, it's a great venue for us, and I think the public appreciates us being out here."





A Chicago youngster investigates an Mk19 40mm machinegun on the city's Navy Pier during Marine Week. (Photo by Kim Miller)

Marine Week culminated in a three-day exposition in and around the Navy Pier. Many of the vehicles and equipment Marines use were showcased by MCSC personnel.

"We've had a really good turnout," said Captain Christopher Athanas, MCSC's Project Officer for the Saber Wire Command-Linked Missile System. "It's nice to be able to show the systems to everybody and explain to them exactly where their tax dollars are going, what capabilities we have, how they're used and what it is Marines do on a day-to-day basis."

Inside the 15,000 square foot Festival Hall at Navy Pier's Lakeview Terrace, visitors were given full access to MCSC equipment, and were able to go table to table, and try their hand at the latest weapons and systems.

"We love it," said John Volmert of Denver. "It allows the kids to get up close and personal with all of

the equipment, and the best part is it's all hands on."

Dozens of veterans from past wars came out as well, including 83-year-old Richard Yavenue of Thornton, Ill. Yavenue, who joined the Marine Corps at age 18, is a Purple Heart recipient for wounds suffered in the Battle of Saipan.

"I wish we would have had all this equipment in World War II," Yavenue said. "We would have saved a lot of lives."

Displays outside included the Light Strike Vehicle, the Light Armored Vehicle and several Mine Resistant Ambush Protected Vehicles.

"There are a lot of great displays," said Scott Mihigan of Chicago.

Chicago was the first city selected to host what is expected to be a recurring effort in major cities across the country. "Chicago was an excellent choice to kick off Marine Week," Reinwald said. "Beyond the equipment, I think it's even more important for people to come out here and see what we have procured, and talk to Marines and civilians. It demystifies us."

Visitor's agreed. "Marine Week is probably the best thing Chicago could have done," Mihigan said. "This is what this country needs, a lot more focus on what our military does keeping us safe and keeping us free."

— By Barbara Hamby, MCSC Corporate Communications

More than 75 Marine Corps Systems Command team members provided support for Marine Week in Chicago. (Photo by Jennifer Gonzalez)



# Heart and Soul

## Facilities and Services Team provides special support

Anthony Parker, Marine Corps Systems Command's (MCSC) Facilities Manager, is on call 24 hours a day, seven days a week, whether it's for MCSC Headquarters at Quantico, Va., or some place like Chicago.

"The phone rings, the power goes out, I'm there," said Parker, a retired Marine Corps Sergeant Major. "It's like being in the Corps again but on a different side. I'm on call to fix things, repair things."

Fixing and repairing is what the 11 members of MCSC's Facilities and Services Team do best. The Command's maintenance staff has a broad range of skills in various areas such as structural, plumbing, electrical, heating and air conditioning, systems furniture and grounds.

"When I first got here, we had a total of 485 work requests," Parker said. "If you look at the requests now, we have less than 50. That's because I have the personnel to do the jobs that we are capable of doing."

"Having our own Facilities and Services unit empowers our Command to be self-sufficient," said Jeannine Griffin, Facilities Office Manager. "Our workers take pride in the skills they have and are eager to assist with any problems that may arise. I'm proud to be a part of this team."

Some of those recent problems have included flooding, faulty air conditioning units and getting static displays to Chicago for Marine Week.

"Our guys drove the truck 14 hours from Quantico to Chicago," Parker said. "It was great because everybody had their equipment, everybody had their gear accounted for."

Special events and expositions like Marine Week, Marine South in Lejeune, N.C., and Marine Day at

Members of Marine Corps Systems Command's Facilities and Services Team put up a tent for the Marine South Exposition at Camp Lejeune, N.C. (Photo by Jennifer Gonzalez)



Quantico are recent added evolutions for the team.

"After I was told that the Command was spending over \$50,000 for a logistics contractor to support these types of evolutions, it only made sense that we use our own resources and expertise," said John Young, MCSC's Assistant Commander for Facilities and Services. "From all the comments I have heard concerning Marine Week Chicago, we made the right call. The experience our Facilities workforce received, and how well the Command was represented, as well as the cost savings to the Command, continues to prove just how good this team is."

According to Gloria Pryor, Corporate Communications' Lead for Strategic Communications and Publicity, the Facilities and Services Team has saved the Command at least \$125,000 this year alone in shipping costs and has provided flawless logistical support.

"They are never late with deliveries and setups, and they never get upset with short notice or lack of supplies," said Pryor, who coordinates most of MCSC's involvement in exposition events. "They are always ready and willing to pitch in and help with anything we request of them. They are truly a very important part of the MCSC team."

"We may not be the brains of the Command," Parker said. "But I like to think we're its heart and soul."

— By Bill Johnson-Miles, MCSC Corporate Communications (Barb Hamby contributed to this article)



Anthony Parker (left), Marine Corps Systems Command's Facilities Manager, helps to load a truck in Chicago at the conclusion of Marine Week. (Photo by Jennifer Gonzalez)

# INTERNATIONAL Conference

## MRAP users gather, share lessons

The first Mine Resistant Ambush Protected (MRAP) Vehicles International Users Conference convened in April at the Alfred M. Gray Research Center on Marine Corps Base Quantico, Va. Representatives from across all military services, Special Operations Command and coalition partners came together to discuss common issues, create solutions and share lessons learned across the MRAP user community.

“Our goal with this conference was to share and capture many aspects of operational use, maintenance, logistics and safety issues common to all of us in the MRAP community,” said Charlette Hudson, Assistant Program Manager of the International Programs Team for the MRAP Joint Program Office (JPO). “With this conference we came together as a group and shared different ideas and perspectives.”

The conference attracted nearly 230 military members, civilians and contractors from the MRAP international users community, including coalition partners Canada, the United Kingdom, France and Italy.

According to the JPO, the MRAP family of vehicles has enhanced the survivability and combat capability of U.S. and coalition warfighters during Operation Iraqi Freedom and Operation Enduring Freedom. Since the introduction of MRAP vehicles into theater, thousands of hours and miles have been logged by a host of different users, in many operational environments and scenarios. There have also been many requirements for modifications and upgrades that support making each vehicle more effective and sustainable.

Canadian Army Major Daniel Roubichard, Project Manager for the Iraq Project, Expedient Road Opening Capability, explained how the conference was a great way to network and share lessons learned.

“Ultimately, we are all in this together,” he said. “When it is time to get in a country where we have to fight a common enemy, no one can do it alone. We

have to all get together and share so we can learn from it and improve.”

Conference participants shared lessons learned from past operations and exchanged information on developing solutions to current challenges, said Paul Mann, Joint Program Manager of the MRAP Vehicle Program. “We are trying to bring our best practices, lessons learned and any high-risk type evolutions we have seen over the last two and a half years and discuss the best ways to manage them.”

However, since these challenges will need long-term solutions, the most important result of the conference will be the creation of international partnerships that can take the work to the next level.

“We can’t expect that we will solve these kinds of problems in a two-day conference, so what we hope to do is build those partnerships and continue that work once we leave here today,” Mann said at the conference. “We’re not only more efficient but more effective by working with our partners.”

As the conference progressed it was clear that many lessons and experiences were shared by nearly all of the U.S. and coalition partner vehicle teams.

“A lot of the lessons we learned are exactly the same as our coalition partners and the Americans,” said British Army Major Alan Paramore, Royal Logistics Corps. “I think the relationship we have with everyone will continue to grow in a very positive way. I think we have a lot to tell you; you have lots to tell us; let’s just keep sharing and keep working together.”

— By Barbara Hamby, MCSC Corporate Communications



(From left) Brigadier General Michael Brogan, Mine Resistant Ambush Protected (MRAP) Vehicles Joint Program Executive Officer and Commander, Marine Corps Systems Command (MCSC); and Steve Manchester, MCSC's Director of International Programs, speaks with Major Alan Paramore, Royal Logistics Corps, at the MRAP International Users Conference April 28 at the Alfred M. Gray Research Center on Marine Corps Base Quantico, Va. (Photo by Barb Hamby)

# Additional Events



Brigadier General Michael Brogan, Commander, Marine Corps Systems Command, addresses World War II veterans from Lynchburg, Va., at the National Museum of the Marine Corps in April. *(Photo by Bill Johnson-Miles)*



Mr. William Taylor, Program Executive Officer for Land Systems, conducts a briefing at the Sea-Air-Space Exposition at the Gaylord National Hotel in National Harbor, Md., in May. *(Photo by Bill Johnson-Miles)*

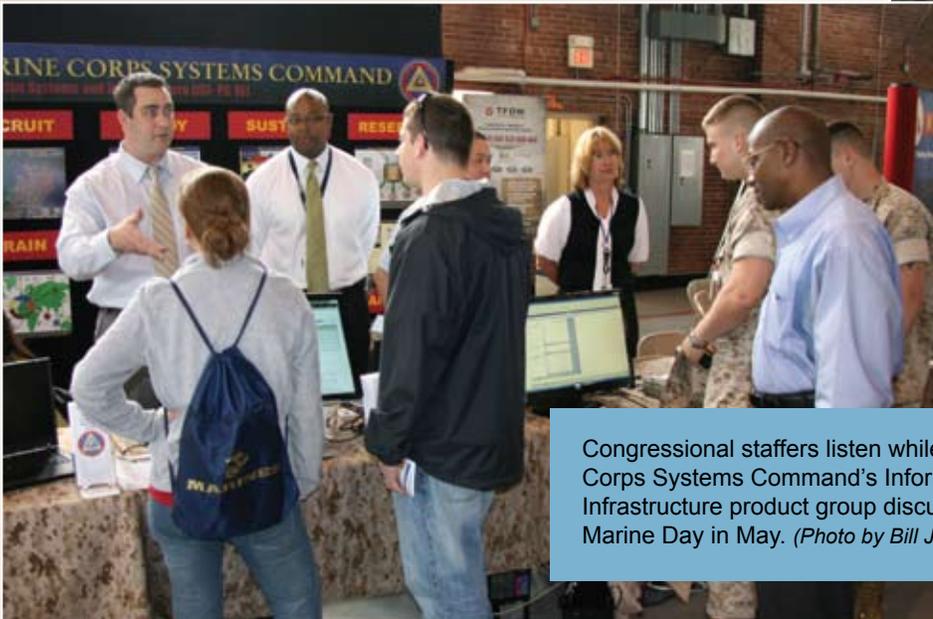


From left, Kathryn Hunt and Scott Allred, who both work for the Program Manager for Ammunition, speak with General James Conway, Commandant of the Marine Corps, and Brigadier General Michael Brogan, Commander, Marine Corps Systems Command, during Marine Day in May. *(Photo by Bill Johnson-Miles)*



Marine Corps Systems Command's (MCSC) Program Management Competency Leadership Board met in Charlottesville, Va., in March for a Federal Executive Institute Workshop organized by MCSC's Strategic Change Management Center. *(SCMC photo)*

Lieutenant General Duane Thiessen, Assistant Deputy Commandant for Programs and Resources, congratulates Mr. William Taylor, Program Executive Officer for Land Systems, on reaching the Senior Executive Service rank at his promotion event in April. *(Photo by Bill Johnson-Miles)*



Congressional staffers listen while members of Marine Corps Systems Command's Information Systems and Infrastructure product group discuss their systems during Marine Day in May. *(Photo by Bill Johnson-Miles)*



Well wishers congratulate William Randolph, former Assistant Commander for Contracts, for receiving the Meritorious Civilian Service Award at his farewell luncheon in April. *(Photo by Bill Johnson-Miles)*



Dave Keeler (left) and Hospital Corpsman Chief Petty Officer (HMC) Greg Tedrick (right) of Marine Corps Systems Command's Family of Field Medical Equipment office speak with a Camp Lejeune HMC at the Marine South Exposition in April. *(Photo by Jenifer Gonzalez)*



## In-sourcing Initiative to rebalance MCSC's workforce

**D**efense Secretary Robert Gates set the target: reduce support-service contractor personnel by one-third and replace them with more than 30,000 new government employees. This will meet the Obama Administration's goal for reducing the number of private Defense contractors.

Marine Corps Systems Command (MCSC) is participating in this initiative "because the Command needs to increase its government workforce," said Brigadier General Michael Brogan, MCSC's Commander.

"We have an opportunity to reconstitute our in-house government technical workforce," added Dr. John Burrow, MCSC's Executive Director. "That's what we're doing. That's the whole purpose of this effort."

In the next two years, hundreds of positions now occupied by contractors will be absorbed into the MCSC workforce. The Command will recruit new government employees to fill manpower needs.

"Contractor personnel are not being 'converted to government,'" said Jim Irwin, MCSC's Director of Workforce Management and Development. Instead, he explained, the need for their services is being established within government manpower. Irwin said the door is open for any qualified person to fill the new positions.

"We certainly have a qualified contractor person-

nel component in addition to current government employees among our total workforce," he said. "All of these folks can compete for the new positions, and we look forward to receiving their applications."

The fundamental overhaul of the Department of Defense's (DoD) approach to procurement, acquisition and contracting, Gates explained, will rebalance the department's programs at a critical time.

DoD, he added, "requires an acquisition system that can perform with greater urgency and agility. We need greater funding flexibility and the ability to streamline our requirements and acquisition execution procedures."

As MCSC moves ahead with in-

sourcing, Irwin said, current employees may also apply to be considered for lateral reassignment by submitting their resumes to [mcsc.resumes@usmc.mil](mailto:mcsc.resumes@usmc.mil). They should indicate in their email what series or pay band they are applying for, along with any added information regarding organizations within MCSC for which they would like consideration. Resumes collected will be referred to competency leads for selection of best-qualified candidates.

*(The In-sourcing Town Halls occurred after the press time deadline for this magazine. An in-depth article will be published in the next edition of Marines On Point.)*

## Thomas departs MCSC

**M**arilyn Thomas, Marine Corps Systems Command's (MCSC) Deputy Commander for Resource Management (DRM), has been selected as Deputy for Budget, Office of the Assistant Secretary of the Air Force, Comptroller and Financial Management at the Pentagon. Thomas was featured on the cover of the Spring 2009 *Marines On Point* magazine for expertly guiding MCSC's financial and workforce management staffs to execute unprecedented levels of funding and acquisition in support of contingency operations.

"Ms. Thomas' leadership, accomplishments and initiatives at Marine Corps Systems Command have been significant and will have an enduring impact on the overall effectiveness and efficiency of this Command," said Brigadier General Michael Brogan, MCSC Commander. "I am thankful for the contributions



Michelle Cresswell-Atkinson (left) of the Mine Resistant Ambush Protected (MRAP) Vehicles Joint Program Office presents Marilyn Thomas with an MRAP plaque at her farewell event in May. At this same event, Ms. Thomas also received the Superior Civilian Service Medal. At Acquisition Excellence Day in June, Cresswell-Atkinson received the Lawrence P. Kreitzer Leadership Award. *(Photo by Bill Johnson-Miles)*

Ms. Thomas has made to our Command and the United States Marine Corps over the last two years. Although her leadership and contributions will be sorely missed, I am pleased with her opportunity to serve our nation in this new capacity.”

At her farewell event in May, Brogan awarded Thomas the Superior Civilian Service Medal.

Until Ms. Thomas’ position is filled, Marcia Case will serve as Acting DRM. “Case leads the financial community activities of this command and has a broad background in resource management matters,” Brogan said. “So, I am confident that she will provide the continuity needed during this transition.”

## Caracciolo leads Contracts team

**S**teve Caracciolo is Marine Corps Systems Command’s (MCSC) new Assistant Commander for Contracts.

Caracciolo has more than 33 years combined experience in procurement through both civilian and military federal government employment. Previously, Caracciolo was the lead Contracting Officer for the Anti-Submarine Warfare and Mine Systems Branch of the Undersea Systems Contracts Division at the Naval Sea Systems Command Contracts Directorate. He arrived at MCSC in February 2007 and was assigned as the Lead Contracting Officer for Ground Transportation and Engineer Systems and the Joint Mine Resistant Ambush Protected Vehicle Program.

“Caracciolo is a proven performer,” said Brigadier General Michael Brogan, MCSC Commander. “He has made a

significant impact here at MCSC as the Senior Contracting Officer and Competency Lead within Product Group 15, and I have the utmost confidence that he will continue to do great things in his new, critical role.”

A panel comprised of senior leadership from Headquarters Marine Corps; the office of the Assistant Secretary of the Navy for Research, Development and Acquisition; and MCSC evaluated a pool of highly qualified applicants, all from within the Command, and forwarded their recommendation to Brogan.



Steve Caracciolo  
Assistant Commander  
for Contracts

## Programs leave Hospital Point campus

**T**wo Marine Corps Systems Command programs are no longer located on the Hospital Point Campus



Richard Hardy and Lieutenant Colonel John Oliver discuss business in front of the new Stafford, Va., office of the Program Manager for Ammunition.  
(Photo by Jennifer Gonzalez)

at Quantico, Va. Both International Programs (IP) and the office of the Program Manager for Ammunition (PM Ammo) have moved to Stafford, Va. PM Ammo is now located at 39 Tech Parkway in Building 2204, Suite 211, and IP is located at 475 Aquia Town Center Drive, Suite 203.

## Westerholm selected for CINS PG12 Director

**I**n January, James Westerholm took over as the new Product Group Director (PGD) for Communications, Intelligence and Networking Systems (CINS). He brings to the position a strong background in acquisition management and organizational leadership.

Westerholm, a native of the suburbs of Philadelphia, started his government career as a mechanical engineer co-op student with the Norfolk Naval Shipyard. He came to Marine Corps Systems Command (MCSC) in 1999 with 10 years of acquisitions management experience and grew his resume with continued management positions within the Command. He was the Program Manager for the High Mobility Artillery Rocket System from 2002-2007, attended the Industrial

College of the Armed Forces in 2007 and 2008, and then returned to MCSC as Director of Strategic Planning.

The CINS PGD earned a Bachelor of Science degree in mechanical engineering from Pennsylvania State University and a Master of Science degree in national resource strategy from National Defense University.

He is also a graduate of the Defense Acquisition University Senior Acquisition Course, Advanced Program Manager's Course and the Program Manager's Course.

Westerholm has received several awards throughout his distinguished career. Highlights include the Marine Corps Certificate of Commendation for professional achievement; the 2005 Donald Roebling Award for Acquisition Innovation and Excellence; the MCSC Command Vision and Achievement Award; and induction into the Honorable Order of Saint Barbara by the U.S. Field Artillery Association.

## Javelin team earns DoD award

**T**he U.S. Marine Corps Javelin Launch Tube Enhancement Team has earned a fiscal year 2008 Department of Defense (DoD) Value Engineering Achievement award in the team category. John Young, Under Secretary of Defense for Acquisition, Technology and Logistics, announced the award winners in March.

Value engineering is a systematic process of functional analysis identify-



James Westerholm  
Product Group Director for  
Communications, Intelligence  
and Networking Systems

ing actions that reduces cost, increases quality and improves mission capabilities across the entire spectrum of DoD systems, processes and organizations. The

Javelin team includes Marine Corps Systems Command's office of the Program Manager for Anti-Armor Systems and the Joint Special Operations Department at the Naval Surface Warfare Center in Crane, Ind. DoD recognized the

team at a Pentagon ceremony in June.

## Small Business receives new rep

**D**ave Dawson, who recently served as a Secret Service Branch Chief, has taken the helm as Marine Corps Systems Command's (MCSC) Associate Director of Small Business Programs. He has served at MCSC before as the lead Contract Specialist for Special Tooling/Special Test Equipment and Small Business Innovative Research.

Dawson obtained a Bachelor of Science degree in business administration from Strayer College and went on to Central Michigan University to earn a Master of Science in administration. Armed with 17 years' experience as a civilian federal employee, he looks forward to his new position.

"I hope to increase the utilization of small businesses to support the warfighter and meet the Marine Corps mission," Dawson said.

The Office of Small Business Programs is a conduit for small businesses to seek opportunity and involvement with the Command.

## Billets available for acquisition officers

**O**fficers holding the Military Operational Specialty (MOS) 8059 now have access to a list of expected ground acquisition billets along with the projected year. This information is provided to help MOS 8059 officers plan for their future assignments and career opportunities.

To access the list, go to Marine Corps Systems Command's (MCSC) website [www.marcorsyscom.usmc.mil](http://www.marcorsyscom.usmc.mil) and on the left side of the page click on "Links." Next, under USMC click on "Acquisition Workforce" and then on "MOS Career Maps." Finally, choose "MOS 8059 Ground Billets By Year Openings."

For more information, contact Rich Reager, MCSC's Assistant Ground Acquisition Occupational Field Sponsor, at (703) 432-3985 or by email at [richard.reager@usmc.mil](mailto:richard.reager@usmc.mil).



Dave Dawson  
Associate Director  
of Small Business Programs



A Marine plays Taps during the Sunset Parade hosted by Marine Corps Systems Command at the Marine Corps War Memorial in Arlington, Va. (CVIC photo)

## Sunset Parade on tap for Aug. 11

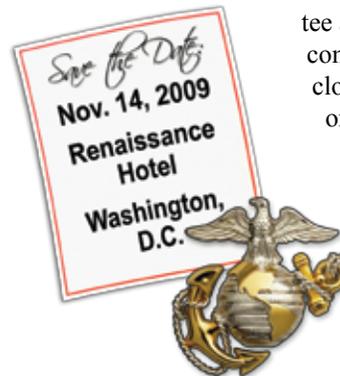
On behalf of the Commandant of the Marine Corps, Marine Corps Systems Command is hosting the Sunset Parade at the Marine Corps War Memorial near Arlington National Cemetery beginning at 6:30 p.m. Aug. 11.

Members of the Command are invited to attend, and bus transportation will be provided. There should be enough reserved seats at the event for all bus riders, but anyone can attend with their own transportation. Those not riding the bus will join the general public. The general public usually covers every inch of grass around the parade field with lawn chairs and blankets. Additional information is posted on the Command's TIGER website.

Marching and musical units from Marine Barracks in Washington, D.C., the "Oldest Post of the Corps," have been presenting Sunset Parades since 1956. These parades are conducted in the shadow of the 32-foot-tall bronze sculpture of warfighters pushing up a 60-foot flag pole modeled after the raising of the stars and stripes on Iwo Jima

during World War II.

The parade features "The Commandant's Own" U.S. Marine Drum and Bugle Corps with their "Music in Motion" performance and the precision rifle handling of the elite Marine Corps Silent Drill Platoon. These 24 riflemen twirl, toss and catch their weapons with gloved hands, all with seeming ease and without verbal command. The marching band of decorated Marines, swirling torrents of scarlet and white spiked with silver, perform moving passages of music and pay tribute to those Marines whose "uncommon valor was a common virtue." The one-hour performance includes a 21-gun salute, but probably the most poignant moment of the evening will take place from atop the imposing sculpture when a lone bugler will lift his instrument and play the solemn notes of Taps, stirring patriotic emotions and inspiring one and all.



## Save the date, Nov. 14, for USMC Birthday Ball

The Command's 2009 Marine Corps Birthday Ball will be held Saturday, Nov. 14 at the same location as last year's event, in the Grand Ballroom at the Renaissance Hotel, 999 9th St. NW, in Washington. Ticket sales will commence Sept. 21 for everyone, including government employees, active-duty military, retirees and contractors, on a first-come, first-served basis. Ball unit ticket sales representatives will sell tickets through noon Oct. 30, unless tickets sell out prior to that date.

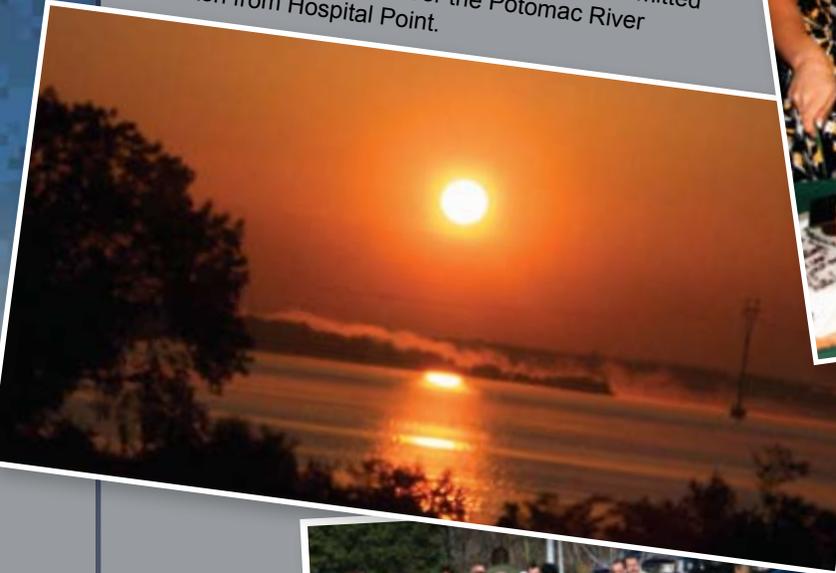
Tickets will be limited, and it is recommended that ball goers purchase their tickets early. People who purchase tickets in the first few weeks after sales begin will be eligible for a variety of pre-ball prizes, which in the past have included a free hotel room, gift certificates and ticket cost reimbursements. The block of hotel rooms set aside for ball attendees is expected to sell out early this year. Those wishing to spend the night should make their reservations as soon as the block becomes available.

MCSC will continue to host a series of Marine Corps Birthday Ball fundraising events in the upcoming months to help defray the cost of tickets and let all junior enlisted Marines attend free of charge. It is expected that each MCSC product group, department and unit will conduct some kind of a ball fundraiser, and organizers of these events should contact the Birthday Ball committee at (703) 432-3277 or 3287. The committee is also selling MCSC clothing and memorabilia. To place orders, visit Building 2200's Front Security Desk, or go to [www.CafePress.com/SysCom](http://www.CafePress.com/SysCom). For more information, visit the Birthday Ball page on the Command's TIGER website, and watch for all-hands messages and emails.



# Snapshots

Sheri Weaver of International Programs submitted this shot of a sunrise over the Potomac River taken from Hospital Point.



Rita Jones (left) and Leila Dujany, two of Marine Corps Systems Command's 2008 summer hires, celebrate their graduation from college. (Photo by Bill Johnson-Miles)

Marine Corps Systems Command Marines participate in the annual combat fitness test. (Photo by Bill Johnson-Miles)



Members of Marine Corps Systems Command's Reconnaissance and Amphibious Raids office prepare to conduct tandem parachute jumps. (Photo by Bill Johnson-Miles)



Major Andrew Thompson (left) receives a going away gift from the CrossFit workout team prior to his transfer to San Diego. (Photo by Bill Johnson-Miles)



Captain Dan King of Program Executive Officer for Land Systems meets General James Conway, Commandant of the Marine Corps, and receives the Commandant's official coin as part of the Captain's recognition as Marine Corps Systems Command Action Officer of the Year. (Pentagon photo)

*Marines On Point* encourages members of the command to submit snapshots of co-workers. Printed photos may be delivered to magazine staff members in Building 2200, Room 153, or mailed to *Marines On Point* magazine, Corporate Communications, 2200 Lester St., Quantico, VA 22134. High-resolution digital photos may also be emailed to [MCSCPAO@usmc.mil](mailto:MCSCPAO@usmc.mil). Please identify all people in each submitted photo and the person who took each photo as well.



# Marine Corps Birthday Ball

Marine Corps Systems Command  
Program Executive Officer for Land Systems

*Support the Ball:*

Purchase MCSC Shirts and Memorabilia

Shop at [www.CafePress.com/SysCom](http://www.CafePress.com/SysCom)

Attend Ball Fundraisers

Become a Committee Volunteer

Enjoy the Social Event of the Year

*Save the Date:*

**Nov. 14, 2009**

**Renaissance  
Hotel**

**Washington,  
D.C.**

**Tickets go on sale  
September 21**

Fundraisers and profits from sales help defray the cost of tickets and enable all Command junior enlisted Marines to attend the Ball for free.

For more  
information:

703-432-3277

703-432-3287



# MARINES



