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## Tip of The Point

“Teamwork and personal rigidity  
just don’t mix.”

- John C. Maxwell

## Calendar

Dec. 7 – Pearl Harbor Day

Dec. 10 – Federal Benefits Open  
Season ends

Dec. 11 – 11 a.m. to noon Stress  
Management and Nutrition Family  
Power Hour in Trailer 2209

Dec. 15 – Combined Federal  
Campaign concludes

Dec. 18 – Holiday Social from 1-4  
p.m. at The Clubs At Quantico

Dec. 25 – Federal holiday for  
Christmas

## The Point

Corporate Communications  
Public Affairs Division  
(703) 432-3958  
mcscpao@usmc.mil

Emailed the first Tuesday of each  
month. Deadline for submissions is  
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Deadline for January is Dec. 27.

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Corps Systems Command.



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## Benefits open season ends Dec. 10

Federal Benefits Open Season ends Dec. 10. The Civilian Human Resources  
Web site at

<http://www.public.navy.mil/donhr/Benefits/Pages/BenefitsOpenSeason.aspx>  
has current information about the open season.

Plan booklets are available in early November. The 2013 premium rates for  
Federal Employees Health Benefits (FEHB) and Federal Employees Dental  
and Vision Insurance Programs (FEDVIP) can be accessed on the above Web  
site. The average 2013 premium increase for FEHB is 3.4 percent and less  
than 1 percent for FEDVIP. Employees are strongly encouraged to start  
reviewing available information to be ready to make their open-season  
decisions.

For more information, call the benefits line at (888) 320-2917 and select menu  
option #4 to speak with a Customer Service Representative (CSR). CSRs are  
available from 7:30 a.m. until 7:30 p.m., Eastern Time, Monday through  
Friday, except on federal holidays. The TTY number is (866) 359-5277.

You may also email questions to [navybenefits@navy.mil](mailto:navybenefits@navy.mil). You must include  
your full name, pay plan, grade, contact telephone number and the best time  
to call you, but do not include Privacy Act Information such as date of birth or  
Social Security number.

## CFC season continues

The Combined Federal Campaign (CFC) solicitation season continues until  
Dec. 15. The Marine Corps Base Quantico goal (which includes all tenant  
activities) is \$650,000. Last year, MCSC was the No. 1 contributing  
organization aboard the base.

The 2012 Combined Federal Campaign is the only authorized charitable-  
giving drive for employees in the Federal workplace. This annual fundraising  
campaign supports a variety of health, human and other services provided by  
international, national and local charitable organizations. CFC is a successful,  
cost-efficient fundraising campaign that provides federal employees the  
opportunity to improve the quality of life for others.

CFC pledge cards are available from organization key workers. If your  
organization does not have a designated key worker, Staff Sergeant J.A. Nix  
and Corporal A.V. Medina can assist you.

Checks must be made payable to Combined Federal Campaign or CFC rather  
than to the specific organization. CFC distributes donations to the designated  
organizations based on the donor’s pledge card instructions.

The Combined Federal Campaign Charity List and the list of key workers can  
be accessed on VIPER via the following link:

If you have any questions or concerns, contact Nix at (703) 432-3878 or Medina at (703) 432-3031.

## Hollinger receives technical analyst award, presented with U.S. patent

*By Wil Williams, MCTSSA Public Affairs*

It has been a double honor for Major Kenneth B. Hollinger, Marine Corps Tactical Systems Support Activity's (MCTSSA) Lead Radio Frequency Engineer. He received an honor and a U.S. patent for his work and research.

The Association of Old Crows (AOC) – a distinguished professional association that promotes public understanding in the science and practice of electronic warfare and signal intelligence – honored Hollinger for his breakthrough work on the analysis of waveforms and signals and their far-reaching application in the area of Electronic Warfare in both hardware and software support.

The Major, who at times also works directly as a MAGTF Electronic Warfare Officer for Marine Corps Systems Command's Deputy Commander for Systems Engineering, Interoperability, Architectures and Technology, said he was "...absolutely surprised" at his nomination and selection.

"I got an email entitled 'Congratulations from AOC,' and I thought it was spam," Hollinger said, "but when I opened it up, it was actually an email congratulating me on winning the award."

As it turned out – and unknown to Hollinger – the MCSC leadership at Quantico had nominated him for the award. It was presented at the AOC Foundation Celebration of Excellence Awards Ceremony during the 49th Annual AOC International Symposium and Convention held in September in Phoenix.

In conjunction with the convention and the conferring of the award, Hollinger was also recognized in the September issue of the Journal of Electronic Defense.

As for the patent, Thomas Jefferson once referred to intellectual property as "the action of the thinking power called an idea."

Hollinger began doing thesis work for the Naval Postgraduate School (NPS) Electronic Warfare Center on an innovative idea involving "photonic analog-to-digital conversion," while pursuing a Master's Degree in electrical engineering at NPS in 2008. His task was to finish the first working prototype of a photonic, analog to digital converter using the "Robust Symmetric Number System," a numbering system that reduces error by changing only one digit at a time. Unfortunately, when he finished the prototype design, he discovered that the components necessary to build the prototype would cost several thousand dollars – money the school did not have at the time.

As a result, Hollinger pursued a new thesis theme. Subsequently, the school acquired the components Hollinger needed to transform his idea into a working piece of equipment.

"After the school bought the parts, they asked me to come back, but I was already working on my new thesis, so I just did the work as a directed study, working with a team of three other students and a professor from NPS," Hollinger said. "Through the directed study effort, I was able to finish the first working prototype in one semester. Then I turned that working prototype over to the rest of the team, along with a 25-page lab report."

All the team members – Phillip Pace, Mylene Avizo, Jim Calusdian, Brian Luke and Major Hollinger – worked together and in the end, invented a device that will allow, simply stated, for direct digitization of wideband RF signals without the need for the down converting of signals or the use of mixers. As a result, the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office has now jointly awarded them Patent No. 8,269,658.

"The technology has great potential and may very well be the way we receive and record wave forms in the future," Hollinger said. "It ties in with software defined radio technology that – with the use of lasers – pushes digitization of the signal closer to the antenna – eliminating the need for a mixer, and reducing processing time and errors. I figured out the math to make the amplifiers line up the waveforms correctly, designed and built the amplifiers accordingly, plugged it all in, and it worked. It was great because I got to do all the fun stuff while the rest of the team did all of the hard work."

Because the team members were government employees, the patent is assigned to the government. The team is entitled to 20 percent of the patent rights, or 4 percent each, should the government ever sell or make money from it.

## **Command conducts female Marine cover survey**

MCSC is conducting a survey to find out what female Marines think about new dress and service covers or caps. According to the MCSC Product Manager for Infantry Combat Equipment, the purpose of the survey to obtain user feedback, and the acquired data will be used to formulate recommended changes to the current caps. All female Marines are invited to take the Improved Female Dress and Service Cap survey online at one of these links:

Command Access Card (CAC)-enabled users, use this site:

<https://usmcsurveys.natick.army.mil/>

Non-CAC-enabled users or those with CAC issues, use this site:

<https://surveys.natick.army.mil/marines/cap.nsf.>

The survey ends Jan. 18.

## **Submissions accepted for *The Point***

Each month, the Command's electronic newsletter *The Point* brings Marines, Civilian Marines and families the latest news in Marine Corps Systems Command. Topics include security, safety and features from contingency organizations, program management offices, program managers, deputy commanders, assistant commanders, support staff and many other teams. To submit an article for this newsletter, send it to [mcscpao@usmc.mil](mailto:mcscpao@usmc.mil). Photographs and graphics are not published. Submission deadlines are the second-to-last Thursday of the month. The next deadline is Dec. 27. *The Point* is distributed the first Tuesday of each month.