

Calendar

March 8 – (Hearing) Army and Marine Corps Ground Systems Modernization and Acquisition Programs

March 12 – Senate Energy Field Hearing, Norfolk, Va.

March 27 – MOS 8059 Acquisition Professional all-hands event at The Clubs at Quantico

April 10 – Defense Acquisition University Acquisition Community Symposium at Fort Belvoir, Va.

April 11-12 – Marine South, Camp Lejeune, N.C.

April 16-18 – Sea Air Space Expo, Gaylord National Harbor, Md.

April 26-27 – Marine Day, Quantico, Va.

April 30-May 2 – Advanced Planning Briefing to Industry, Norfolk, Va.

The Point

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The Point is an authorized publication for the employees and U.S. military service personnel attached to the Command. Contents are not necessarily the official views of, or endorsed by, the U.S. Government, the Department of Defense, the U.S. Marine Corps, Marine Corps Systems Command or Program Executive Officer Land Systems.

'The Point' submissions

Each month, *The Point* brings Marines, Civilian Marines and families the latest news in Marine Corps Systems Command (MCSC) and Program Executive Officer Land Systems (PEO LS). Topics include security, safety and features from product groups, off-site program managers, deputy commanders, assistant commanders and Strategic Plan Objective Teams. There are also articles about spouses and families. To submit an article for this newsletter, send it to mcscpao@usmc.mil. Submission deadlines are the third Thursday of the month. *The Point* is distributed the first Tuesday of the month. Photographs are not published. Also, be sure to read *Families On Point* attached separately.

Acquisition Pros hold all-hands event

Brigadier General Frank Kelley, MCSC Commander, will host an MOS 8059 Acquisition Professional all-hands event March 27 at The Clubs at Quantico. Discussions will focus on the latest developments in the career field. The time and agenda will be announced through email to the MOS 8059 community. Current 8059s should plan to attend.

PMAAA team supports Marines, food bank

Marines and civilian Marines from Program Manager Advanced Amphibious Assault (PMAAA) took time last holiday season to bring cheer and joy to fellow Marines away from home as well as less fortunate neighbors closer to home. As part of the annual holiday decoration competition hosted by PEO LS, the members of PMAAA incorporated their decorating with a themed fundraising opportunity.

Members of the Amphibious Combat Vehicle (ACV) team raised money and shipped 16 boxes of health and comfort items to the Marines of 2ndBn 4th Marines, while the Marine Personnel Carrier (MPC) team collected more than 600 pounds of food for the Fredericksburg, Va., Food Bank.

In the process of conducting this fundraiser, the MPC Program Director decided to take things to the next level by building a model of an MPC that was used to collect the food and generate a spirit of competition among their colleagues. The model led the team to victory as they were named the 2011 Holiday Decoration Contest winners from within PEO LS.

Additionally, the food collection has taken on a bit of a permanency at PMAAA as they continue to collect non-perishables and deliver them on a regular basis to the Fredericksburg Food Bank.

If you would like to take part, bring non-perishable items to the team at PMAAA, 14041 Worth Avenue, Woodbridge, VA 22192, and don't forget to check out their MPC model.

DAU sponsors acquisition symposium

Defense Acquisition University holds its annual Acquisition Community Symposium April 10 at its Fort Belvoir, Va., campus. High-level officials from government and industry will address the theme, "Understanding the Nuts and Bolts of Acquiring Services."

This one-day training event is designed to help students learn about and understand basic principles of services acquisition. The training seminar qualifies for four continuous learning points. Students can register at www.dauaa.org or by calling (800) 755-8805.

Navy Marine Corps Relief Society starts active-duty fund drive

This year's Navy Marine Corps Relief Society active-duty fund drive has started. The drive began March 1 and continues to April 1. The fund drive's goal is 100 percent contact with every section in MCSC.

"I know we are all busy, but Marine Corps Systems Command has to do its part to help our fellow Marines and Sailors," said Staff Sergeant Coral Guilbe, MCSC Chief of Staff Secretary. "If you have any questions or concerns, call me at (703) 432-1801 or 1802."

Tax center open for business

The Quantico Tax Center is open for walk-in appointments from 10 a.m. until 4 p.m. Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays, and from 10 a.m. until 6 p.m. Tuesdays and Thursdays.

Services include preparing state and federal income tax returns free of charge for all active-duty service members and their families, as well as military retirees living in the area.

Most clients will be served on a walk-in basis. Appointments will only be made for especially complicated tax returns. Anyone with a rank of lieutenant colonel or higher should make an appointment. Anyone else with a complicated return will have to begin with a walk-in.

All clients must bring their W-2 forms, a social security card for themselves and each of their dependents, and all tax-related documents such as 1099 statements on investment dividends or interest earned. Anyone who pays for childcare should also bring receipts for their payments and the address of the childcare facility. For anyone who did not have their tax returns prepared at the center last year, bringing a copy of last year's return will expedite the process.

The Tax Center is at 3095 Roan Street and can be reached at (703) 432-2072 or (703) 432-2073.

Learning what a heart attack feels like could save your life

The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services and National Institutes of Health have offered tips to help people understand, detect and survive heart attacks. These steps could save your life in the event of a heart attack:

- Know the signs of a heart attack.
- Understand that heart attacks are not all the same.
- Act fast.
- Call 9-1-1.

Heart attacks have these warning signs:

- Your chest hurts or feels squeezed.
- One or both arms, your back, shoulders, neck, or jaw may hurt.
- You may feel like you can't breathe.
- You may feel light-headed or break out in a cold sweat.
- You may feel sick to your stomach, or your stomach may hurt.
- You may feel really, really tired.

Understand that heart attacks are not all the same. Some heart attacks are sudden. Other heart attacks start slowly. Your pain and other signs might go away and come back. You might not be sure if you are having a heart attack. Don't wait, check it out right away.

Call 9-1-1 if you think you might be having a heart attack. Don't wait. If you can't call, ask a family member or friend to call 9-1-1. Do not drive yourself to the hospital. The ambulance will come as fast as it can. Ambulance workers will start lifesaving medicines and other treatments right away.

Gazette opens essay contest on crisis-response force

The February 2012 Marine Corps Gazette featured a new annual essay contest supported by the Marine Corps Association and named for Lieutenant Colonel Earl 'Pete' Ellis, who foretold the struggle for the Pacific 20 years before World War II. His ability to assess the uncertain security environment and its impact on U.S. economic and national security spawned the development of a series of concepts, doctrine and eventually a hallmark capability for Navy-Marine Corps amphibious operations. This essay contest is established in keeping with Ellis' visionary approach to expeditionary warfare.

Brigadier General Frank Kelley, MCSC Commander, wants to ensure that all members of the Command are well aware of this essay contest, and he would like to recognize those who submit an essay. Any Marine or Civilian Marine considering an entry is asked to notify the MCSC Chief of Staff and Sergeant Major.

This contest seeks to stimulate operational and tactical thinking by inviting articles that focus on preparing the Marine Corps for future conflict through perspectives ranging across doctrine, emerging threats, capabilities, technological advances, force composition, materiel solutions and operational concepts. The inaugural theme for 2012 is an operational focus on the role of the Navy-Marine team as a crisis-response force in the uncertain security environment of 2015-24.

This contest is open to anyone, civilian or military, who is interested in expanding the dialogue with creative ideas and solutions for how a fiscally constrained Navy-Marine Corps team can effectively execute the full range of naval amphibious operations in the future threat environment. To qualify, entries must propose and argue for modification or introduction of new concepts, organizations or materiel solutions to address expected operational challenges in crisis-response. Authors must provide a thorough treatment of the proposal, including alternative viewpoints, to compel further exploration of the topic.

Entries should be submitted between May 1 and June 30 to the editor, Marine Corps Gazette. The text should be in Microsoft Word format and follow these guidelines:

- Identification of the essay as a Pete Ellis contest entry.
- Include a cover page with the title of the essay.
- Include author's name and mailing address. The author's name should not appear anywhere but on the cover page.
- The title should be repeated on the first page of the essay.
- Submissions should be typewritten, double spaced and range in length from 2,000 to 3,000 words.
- Email entries are acceptable and preferred. Append the article as a Microsoft Word document and email to gazette@mca-marines.org.
- If submitting by mail, include an electronic copy on CD.

Members of the Marine Corps Ellis Group and MCA Editorial Board will judge the contest in July and notify winners shortly thereafter. Prizes include \$5,000 and an engraved plaque for first place, an engraved plaque for second place and honorable mention. All entries are eligible for publication. The winning entries will be published in a future Marine Corps Gazette.