

Calendar

May 8 – SIAT Process Training at 8:15 a.m. in Gray Research Center, Room 165-166

May 11 – Military Spouse Appreciation Day

May 18-20 – Joint Services Open House at Joint Base Andrews, Md.

May 28 – Memorial Day

June 6 – Acquisition Excellence Day at Hylton Conference Center in Woodbridge, Va.

June 10-17 – Marine Week in Cleveland

June 14 – Flag Day

June 26 – MCSC/PEO LS FNC Transition Assessment Review at 10 a.m. in Bldg. 2209

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.

MOS 8059 officers hold planning meeting

Brigadier General Frank Kelley, MCSC Commander, hosted the first Acquisition Professional Officer Career Planning and Information Meeting March 27 at The Clubs at Quantico. About 85 Marine Corps Acquisition Professional Officers attended. This meeting was the first time MOS 8059 Acquisition Professional Officers had assembled together to receive information and review the growth of the career field.

General Kelley, MOS 8059 Occupational Field Manager, gave a history of Marine acquisition and talked about the importance of officers' exposure to different jobs. He encouraged officers to manage their career and seek feedback from mentors.

Guest speakers addressed topics such as understanding the MOS 8059, and ACAT I and II Program Manager selection and slating process, the importance of keeping Defense Acquisition Workforce Improvement Act records up to date, Command and Command-equivalent billets, and the impact of competency alignment on the community.

Harris, Sifer will attend ICAF

William Harris and Nicholas Sifer have been selected as the Marine Corps representatives to attend the Industrial College of the Armed Forces (ICAF) for academic year 2012-2013. "Being selected for ICAF is a great accomplishment for them, Marine Corps Systems Command and Program Executive Officer Land Systems," said Brigadier General Frank Kelley, MCSC Commander.

"Mr. Harris has excelled as Lead Financial Manager for Program Executive Officer Land Systems, while Mr. Sifer has led the way in Systems Engineering, Interoperability, Architectures and Technology," Kelley said. "Selection for school is one of the highest ways an individual can be recognized; it is a significant investment by the Command that comes with high expectations for future service to our Corps.

"Please join me in congratulating Mr. Harris and Mr. Sifer and wish them the best in their studies," the General added.

Command recognizes PM Developmental Employees

Brigadier General Frank Kelley, MCSC Commander, recognized three Program Management (PM) Developmental Employees in April for their successful career progression and growth within the PM Competency and the Command. Fernando Pena, James Dade and Patrick Murrie were each acknowledged with presentation of their Defense Acquisition Workforce Improvement Act (DAWIA) PM Level II certificates. This event highlighted their second full year of PM acquisition experience within MCSC and the completion of their Defense Acquisition University PM Level II training requirements.

“The Program Analyst Series 343 is not identified as a participant within the Department (DoN) of the Navy Intern Program (NAIP) at Mechanicsburg, Pa.,” said John H. Cocowitch, PM Community Manager, “We recognized that we needed to introduce younger civilian entrants into our community in order to balance our retiring workforce of senior PM acquisition professionals. To do that we reclassified three PM Competency positions into developmental positions with full performance-level growth at the end of three years. Our goal was to mirror the NAIP program and provide a career progression ladder approach with both DAWIA and on-the-job training as the foundation.”

The PM Competency participated in several DoN-sponsored “continuity of service” career fairs for separating junior officers from the Navy and Marine Corps at Pensacola, Fla., and Little Creek, Va. Using Veterans Readjustment Act hiring authority, MCSC hired what Cocowitch called “five sharp young men. Two of them actually departed within the first year as they took developmental positions with the FBI and U.S. Marshall Service.”

Pena started the program in November 2009 and completed his second successful year in November 2011. Dade started in January 2010, completing his second successful year in January 2012. Murrie started in March 2010 and completed his second successful year in March 2012. All three attained PM Level II on time and received a copy of their PM Level II DAWIA certification. Pena currently works within Infantry Weapons Systems. Murrie works within PEO-LS. Dade just started a six-month assignment with Program Manager Mine Resistant Ambush Protected at Camp Leatherneck, Afghanistan.

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.