

Calendar

Oct. 5 – PG13 Car Wash, 7:30 a.m. - 2:30 p.m. at parking lot across from Bldg. 2207

Oct. 6 – PG11 Ultimate Frisbee Tournament at 9 a.m. on Parade Deck in front of Bldg. 2200

Oct. 6 – Life Cycle Logistics-Corporate Communications Chili-Hot Dog Feast from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Parade Deck in front of Bldg. 2200

Oct. 13 – PG14 Hot Dog-Chili Dog Sale at 11:30 a.m. outside Bldg. 2200 C Wing

Oct. 18 – Command Competency Leadership Board meets 9-10:30 a.m. in Bldg. 2200, Room 125

Oct. 18 – GTES Open House, 12-3 p.m. at Transportation Demonstration Support Area

Nov. 1 – Last day to buy tickets for Marine Corps Birthday Ball

The Point

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

Distributed the first Tuesday of each month. Deadline for submissions is two Thursdays prior to distribution. Deadline for November is Oct. 20.

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.

Transitions underway to make MCSC more responsive

Earlier this year, at Town Hall II, Brigadier General Frank Kelley, MCSC Commander, stated his intent to make the Command "more responsive and relevant in this changing environment." Bob Williams, Chief Management Officer (CMO), said his CMO team "moved out smartly on this azimuth" throughout the spring and summer to facilitate the implementation of competency alignment and, most recently, prepare to execute a key element of the MCSC-PEO LS team's part in the Department of the Navy and Marine Corps strategy to adapt to changes in the operating, business and fiscal environments.

In mid-September, the CMO formed a temporary working group focused on realignment of motor transport systems from MCSC to PEO LS and the Lightweight 155 Howitzer program from PEO LS to MCSC. The genesis of this effort owes to the Commander's intent in partnership with Mr. Bill Taylor, PEO LS, and closely consulting Mr. Sean Stackley, Assistant Secretary of the Navy for Research, Development and Acquisition, and General Joseph Dunford, Assistant Commandant of the Marine Corps.

On Aug. 1, Mr. Stackley signed a decision memorandum directing the realignment of the Amphibious Assault Vehicle Systems (AAVS) Program from MCSC to PEO LS. The memo stated that the action was part of the MCSC-PEO LS innovative strategy to improve the organizations' "effectiveness and efficiency as an institution and provide greater flexibility and agility in responding to the future needs of the Marine Corps." Within this collaborative framework of comprehensive review, Mr. Stackley directed the Command to expedite all necessary action to realign the AAVS under PEO LS. This was the first step in executing identified alignment opportunities.

The next step in the transition process identified potential value to be gained by realigning the Program Manager for Motor Transportation to PEO LS and the Marine Corps' portion of the Lightweight 155 Howitzer program from PEO LS to MCSC. Through top-level discussions, Brigadier General Kelley and Mr. Taylor obtained Mr. Stackley's informal approval to proceed.

Based on an earlier CMO-facilitated initiative, the CMO team was ready with

the essential policy and process to conduct this key transition. The CMO team had shepherded through the Command's business rules and policy development and staffing process MARCORSYSCOMO 5400.6. This order was recently signed by the Commander to lay the groundwork for how the Command is to effect any "Transfer of Management Responsibility," which is the order's title.

This directive stated the Commander's intent: "As the need arises to plan and execute responsibility transfer, this Command will do so in a manner consistent with our mission, vision, philosophy of leadership, strategic goals and objectives that will maximize the benefits and mitigate the risks." The CMO team viewed the realignment of the PM Motor Transport and PM LW155 as an opportunity to test drive the new order and prepare the way ahead.

"We anticipate future organizational changes," Williams said. "The working group is bringing together all interested parties, including gaining and transferring units and staffing entities. We will make sure the process considers all views – favorable and opposing."

The process is unfolding. While programs might move between MCSC and PEO LS or within the organizations, that does not mean people will move. For each proposed transition, the affected parties will submit the proposal to the Command Competency Leadership Board (CCLB), which will then consider issues of manpower, funding and other resources. When planning a program or staff function transition, information is a critical resource, and the Command's policy promotes transparency throughout, while undergoing the process and developing the primary product – a collaborative memorandum of agreement.

As a proof of principle, the working group is applying the new order to develop and submit its first proposal – the transition of the Motor Transportation program to PEO LS – when the board next convenes Oct. 18. The Lightweight 155 transition is on track with a longer timetable needed to address joint issues with the Army. This, according to Williams, is another example of how the transfer planning process enables the participants to identify and address all the elements and stakeholder interests associated with these transitions.

He added that the working group has benefited from the efforts of key transition leaders, including Reggie Brown who is serving as the team leader. He has helped bring together perspectives from Product Groups 14, 15 and PEO LS as the primary parties represented by Jeff Speer, Mike Gallagher and Ben Garza, respectively, while simultaneously integrating the advice and support of Shelly Dunphy, Nina Barcus, Sheila Johnson and Steve Costa as the resource management experts. Gloria Pryor was the Corporate Communications architect of the communications plan. Steve Zoric from Assistant Commander for Programs and the CMO staff provided direct support.

For this and future transitions, the CCLB will serve as the primary forum for transfer decision analyses, the decision-making process and ensuing actions. Williams said, "These actions will enhance the MCSC and PEO LS mission capabilities and contribute to the Department of the Navy's commitment to maximize the value of our personnel resources, and investment and operating funds."

Corps observes Hispanic Heritage Month

In honor of the many contributions made by the Hispanic community to the United States, the Nation observes Hispanic Heritage Month from Sept. 15 to Oct. 15. Hispanic Heritage Month began in 1968 as Hispanic Heritage Week under President Johnson and was later expanded to a full month by President Reagan with respect to the anniversary of the independence of five Latin American countries on Sept. 15 – Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras and Nicaragua. Along with those countries, Mexico declared its independence on Sept. 16 and Chile on Sept. 18. Throughout our history, Hispanic Americans have distinguished themselves in the Marine Corps and continue to do so today. This year's Hispanic Heritage Month theme is "Many Backgrounds, Many Stories...One American Spirit."

There have been a total of 13 Hispanic Marine Medal of Honor recipients. The first Marine of Hispanic descent to receive the Medal of Honor was Private France Silva in 1900 during the Boxer Rebellion. From June 28 until Aug. 17, Private Silva was involved in the defense of diplomatic missions in Peking against the Boxers until the arrival of additional allied forces. On July 1, Private Silva volunteered to assist other Marines in protecting the Tartar Wall and consequently was seriously wounded. He was shot through his left elbow and the bullet bounced off his sternum. Though he could barely hold his rifle, he remained on duty, relieving Marines and others at the Tartar Wall, until his commanding officer ordered him to seek medical attention.

Hispanic Marines have and continue to proudly serve in the face of danger during Operations Iraqi Freedom and Enduring Freedom displaying valor on the battlefield and receiving many combat decorations. Since the Global War on Terrorism commenced, four Marines of Hispanic descent have been awarded the Navy Cross.

MOS 8059 board announcements coming

Acquisition Professional Officers (MOS 8059) and officers interested in becoming acquisition professionals should be on the lookout for a series of upcoming MARADMINS announcing the Fiscal Year 2012 Acquisition Primary MOS 8059 Selection Board, FY12 Marine Corps Acquisition Category I and II Ground Slating Board, and FY12 Marine Corps Acquisition Command Selection Board. These selection and slating boards are scheduled to take place during January and February. Anticipated key dates are:

	MARINE CORPS ACQUISITION CATEGORY ACAT I & II GROUND SLATING BOARD	ACQUISITION PRIMARY MOS 8059 SELECTION BOARD	MARINE CORPS ACQUISITION COMMAND SELECTION BOARD
ACQUISITION RECORD AUDIT DEADLINE	Dec. 1, 2011	Dec. 23, 2011	Dec. 23, 2011
APPLICATION PACKAGES DUE	Dec. 15, 2011	Jan. 6, 2012	Jan. 6, 2012
BOARD CONVENES ON OR ABOUT	Jan. 24, 2012	Jan. 7-9, 2012	Jan. 9-10, 2012

For more information on the qualifications to become an acquisition professional, contact Rich Reager, Occupational Field Sponsor, at richard.reager@usmc.mil.

Total Force Structure Management System training on line

The Total Force Structure Management System, or TFSMS, is the authoritative data source for all Marine Corps Force Structure Data (FSD). The TFSMS user base is geographically spread across the Marine Corps and comprised of a variety of Marine Occupational Specialties (MOS), Department of Defense job billets and contractor personnel.

TFSMS has two levels of users: the Non-Transactional User (NTU) and the Transactional User (TU). The NTU has the abilities to view FSD as well as view, create and run TFSMS standard and ad hoc reports. The TFSMS TU has all the abilities of the NTU plus the capability to conduct manpower and equipment transactions online via the TFSMS application. The NTU does not have mandated training; however, the TFSMS Project Management Office (PMO) developed NTU Web-Based Training (WBT). The TU requires an understanding of the Marine Corps manpower and equipment processes as well as an understanding of how to use TFSMS forms to perform manpower and equipment transactions. Since 2008, TU training has been conducted via Instructor Led Training (ILT) at the TFSMS training lab in Stafford, Va. Currently, TFSMS ILT classes are limited to 16 students for equipment-related training and 16 students for structure-related training.

Due to the high demand for training and the geographically dispersed TFSMS user base, the TFSMS PMO developed a WBT solution that could reach a broader audience and keep up with the training demands of the TFSMS user community.

In early 2009, the TFSMS PMO began planning the development of the TU WBT. Once funding was approved, development began in early 2010. The TFSMS PMO worked with Total Forces Structure Division (TFSD), TFSMS subject matter experts (SMEs) and members from Naval Surface Warfare Center (NSWC) Dahlgren, Human Systems Integration (HSI) division to ensure the best possible training product would be available. The TFSMS PMO referred to the TFSMS Manpower Personnel and Training Analysis Report (MAR), the TFSMS job task analysis and the Marine Corps System Approach to Training (SAT) manual to ensure the TU WBT would meet all TFSMS TU task requirements.

In April 2011, the TFSMS PMO began the rigorous test process to ensure all TU WBT content was correct and the application met the Training and Education Command's College of Distance Education and Training (CDET) build standards.

In June the TFSMS PMO began working with CDET's E-Courseware Branch Head Lieutenant Colonel Terry Branstetter and his team to release the TFSMS TU WBT onto MarineNet. Branstetter and his team provided countless hours of support during this process to ensure the TFSMS TU WBT application, associated exams and surveys functioned properly on the MarineNet courseware environment.

On Sept. 7 the TFSMS TU WBT was released on MarineNet. MarineNet provides a hosting environment that supports TFSMS training across the Marine Corps. TFSMS users can now access training anytime and anywhere. MarineNet also provides the capability for TFSMS users to revisit the TU WBT at anytime for refresher training.

The TFSMS TU WBT provides users the knowledge, skills and abilities (KSAs) to navigate the TFSMS application as well as view, create and edit Table of Organization and Equipment Change Requests (TOECRs), Table of Authorized Material Control Numbers (TAMCNs) and Catalogue Action Requests (CARs). The TFSMS TU WBT also provides the TFSMS user with the KSAs to run and create TFSMS standard and ad hoc reports.

The TU WBT has two separate curriculums: TFSMS Equipment (MarineNet Course Number [TFSTUEQPZ1](#)) and TFSMS Structure (MarineNet Course Number [TFSTUSTRZ1](#)). Each curriculum is broken down into three courses: introduction to TFSMS, TFSMS equipment or TFSMS structure, and TFSMS workflow and reports. Each course is modular-based to allow the user to easily stop and start training at the student's convenience.

To ensure all modalities of learning are reached, the TFSMS TU WBT courses follow the "Show Me, Lead Me, Let Me, Test Me" methodology. Each course contains lecture, demonstration and practical application exercises to aid in instruction. Checks on learning are embedded throughout, and a final exam is used to measure knowledge retention. The TFSMS PMO also incorporated a completion survey to gather user feedback and recommendations for future updates.

For enrollment requirements or more information on the TFSMS TU WBT, contact TFSMS Training Coordinator Gerard Apanewicz at gerard.w.apanewicz@lmco.com or the TFSMS Helpdesk at tfsms.helpdesk@usmc.mil.

CAO changes reflected in manpower, HR databases

Workforce Management and Development is working diligently to accurately lay in the competency alignment supervisory changes for all affected manpower systems. Personnel with appropriate permissions will be able to view the changes in Staff Directory, the Competency Management Tool and the online Individual Development Plan (IDP) application after Oct. 17.

In the meantime, the IDP may be used in draft mode and printed, but do not electronically submit until the proper supervisory hierarchy is established.

If you have any competency related questions or concerns, work through your Competency Manager and Assistant Program Group Director or Assistant Program Executive Officer.

Help raise funds for Marine Corps Birthday Ball

Command personnel and their families are encouraged to take part in upcoming Marine Corps Birthday Ball fundraising events. Donations and profits at these events help junior enlisted Marines attend the Ball for free. Funds raised also help keep ticket prices down. What would be \$100 or more a ticket is only \$83 or less. Here is a list of the scheduled events:

Date:	Time:	Event:	Location:
Oct. 5	7:30 a.m. – 2:30 p.m.	PG13 Car Wash	Parking lot across from Bldg. 2207
Oct. 6	Starting at 9 a.m.	PG11 Ultimate Frisbee Tournament	Parade Deck in front of Bldg. 2200
Oct. 6	11:30 a.m. – 1 p.m.	LCL and CDC Chili/Hot Dog Feast	Parade Deck in front of Bldg. 2200
Oct. 13	Starting at 11:30 a.m.	PG14 Hot Dog/Chili Dog Sales	Outside near Wing C, Bldg. 2200

PG13 Car Wash – Infantry Weapons Systems (IWS), Marine Corps Systems Command's Product Group 13 (PG13), planned to conduct their car wash last week, but because of poor weather, it was postponed to Wednesday, Oct. 5, from 7:30 a.m. through 2:30 p.m. in the large parking lot across from Bldg. 2207 and near Bldg. 2203, Hospital Point, Marine

Corps Base Quantico. Participants can drop off their vehicles in the morning and pick them up clean in the afternoon, or IWS team members will clean vehicles while attendees wait. There is no actual charge but donations are accepted. For more information, contact Patrick Sheire at (703) 432-4904.

PG11 Ultimate Frisbee Tournament – Product Group 11 (PG11) is sponsoring an Ultimate Frisbee Tournament on Thursday, Oct. 6, beginning at 9 a.m. on the Parade Deck in front of Bldg. 2200. The fee is \$100 per team or \$10 per person for those who just want to show up and form a team. Team rosters and fees should be submitted to Angel Juertas, angel.huertas@usmc.mil, (703) 432-4258.

LCL and CDC Chili-Hot Dog Feast – Life Cycle Logistics and Corporate Communications are sponsoring a Chili and Hot Dog Feast to go along with the Ultimate Frisbee Tournament. It will be held Thursday, Oct. 6, 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. on the Parade Deck in front of Bldg. 2200. For only \$5 you'll receive one of the following choices:

- 2 hot dogs, 1 back of chips and 1 beverage
- 1 bowl of chili, 1 piece of cornbread or 1 bag of chips, and 1 beverage
- 1 hot dog, 1 plate of nachos and 1 beverage

Mrs. Traci Kelley, the Commander's spouse, is expected to participate in this event. For more information, contact Captain Pauleen Stevens at (703) 432-3807.

PG14 Hot Dog-Chili Dog Sales – Product Group 14 (PG14) will conduct an event selling hot dogs and chili dogs at 11:30 a.m. Oct. 13 outside near the end of Wing C, Bldg. 2200. For more information, contact Wendy Perry at (703) 432-4087.

Ticket sales for Marine Corps Birthday Ball end Nov. 1

The Command's annual Marine Corps Birthday Ball, sponsored by Marine Corps Systems Command (MCSC) and Program Executive Officer Land Systems (PEO LS), will be held Saturday, Nov. 12, at the Renaissance Hotel in Washington, D.C. Ticket sales for the social event of the year will end Nov. 1 unless tickets sell out sooner.

Tickets must be purchased using the electronic form located on TIGER under the Ball section. On the left side of TIGER's main page under MCSC, click on SYSCOM MC Ball. After completing and submitting the form, pay for the tickets through your unit Ball ticket representative. Tickets are not valid until they are paid for. Questions on using the electronic form should be directed to your ticket representative. A list of representatives is located on TIGER and on the Ball information document attached with this newsletter.

A block of lower-priced hotel rooms have been set aside for MCSC and PEO LS team members. Call (202) 898-9000 and use the code "marmara" or tell them you want to book a room in conjunction with the MCSC Marine Corps Birthday Ball. You can also use the following link to make reservations:

<http://www.mariott.com/hotels/travel/wasrb?groupCode=marmara&app=resvlink&fromDate=11/12/11&toDate=11/13/11>

F-35B completes successful initial shipboard vertical landing aboard USS Wasp

The Navy and Marine Corps Team made more remarkable naval aviation history Oct. 3 as the F-35B Joint Strike Fighter (JSF) test aircraft BF-2 landed safely on USS Wasp's (LHD-1) flight deck, the first at sea vertical landing for the Marine Corps' F-35 JSF version.