

# ON POINT

MARINES

...ER TO WIN

2007



2009

MARINE CORPS SYSTEMS COMMAND MAGAZINE  
FALL 2009, VOLUME 3, ISSUE 5

- ▶ Dressing for Combat Success
- ▶ Strategic Plan Up Close
- ▶ In-sourcing in Depth

A message from the  
**COMMANDER**



**To all team members of Marine Corps Systems Command and Program Executive Officer, Land Systems,**

With the holiday season arriving soon, this is a good time to reflect on our accomplishments and to make plans to sharpen our ax for the coming challenging New Year. Many of the good things we've done to support our warfighters are evident throughout this issue of *Marines on Point*.

One gauge of our progress was on display at our Gruntworks facility in Stafford, Va. There, members of the news media saw how far Marine Corps Systems Command's (MCSC) support of the warfighter has progressed since the early days of Operations Enduring Freedom and Iraqi Freedom. As you'll see on Pages 20-21, we are doing everything we can to deliver the finest equipment to our forward-deployed Marines as fast and effectively as possible.

One of the best publicized examples of changes from our recent past to our near future is the transition from our successful Mine Resistant Ambush Protected (MRAP) vehicle deployments to Iraq to the new MRAP-All Terrain Vehicle dispatches to Afghanistan for our warriors fighting in the mountains. For an MRAP update see Pages 8-9.

How far we've come and the road we've yet to travel are reflected in the Command Strategic Plan that we unveiled in an October Town Hall as reported on Pages 12-13. We've put such a great emphasis on our Strategic Plan because we need clear minds and a sharp focus to lead us through the next five years. The Command Strategic Plan shows how we are nested in Department of Defense (DoD) guidance and the Marine Corps Vision and Strategy 2025. We all have a duty to become well versed with our Strategic Plan so each of us will know the important role we play in making our mission a success.

Part of the Strategic Plan includes "in-sourcing," which is a new concept for many of us. Simply put, we are bringing work now performed by contractors back within our government workforce. DoD expects to save millions of dollars per year through this effort, and we, MCSC and Program Executive Officer for Land Systems, are going to do our part, increasing our workforce by hundreds of people in the process. The recap of our Town Halls on this topic on Pages 10-11 will give you the big picture.

MCSC is far greater than the sum of its parts. Your individual efforts are essential to our success both today and in the future.

Semper Fidelis!

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "M.M. Brogan".

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

# MARINES ON POINT

Fall 2009,  
Volume 3, Issue 5

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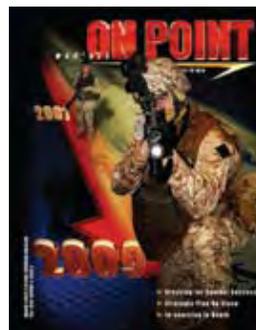
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**On the Cover:** Cover created by Kirk Nelson and photos taken by Bill Johnson-Miles. Sergeants Paul Peacock (left), wearing gear from 2001, and Garrett Ferris, wearing current gear, are both Infantry Officers Course instructors at The Basic School on Marine Corps Base Quantico, Va. See "newest combat equipment" story on Page 20.



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# FLU

## PREVENTION

### MCSC takes precautions against swine flu

Healthcare experts and government officials generally agree that no one knows how severe outbreaks of H1N1 influenza, also known as "swine flu," will be. Amid that uncertainty, officials also agree that everyone should try to avoid catching the virus or keep from spreading it around.

"Fortunately, flu prevention is relatively simple and a matter of common sense," said John Young, Director, Facilities, Services and Supply for Marine Corps Systems Command (MCSC). Young also serves as the Command's lead regarding H1N1 prevention, as appointed by the Chief Management Officer.

The steps, he said, should include "hyper-hygiene: wash your hands at least 15 to 20 seconds; cough into your sleeve; keep your hands away from your face; and use alcohol hand sanitizers. Get the vaccine as soon as it's available, and see a doctor at the first sign of illness."

First detected in Mexico in February 2009, H1N1 quickly spread around the world. This new virus was first reported in people in the United States in April 2009.

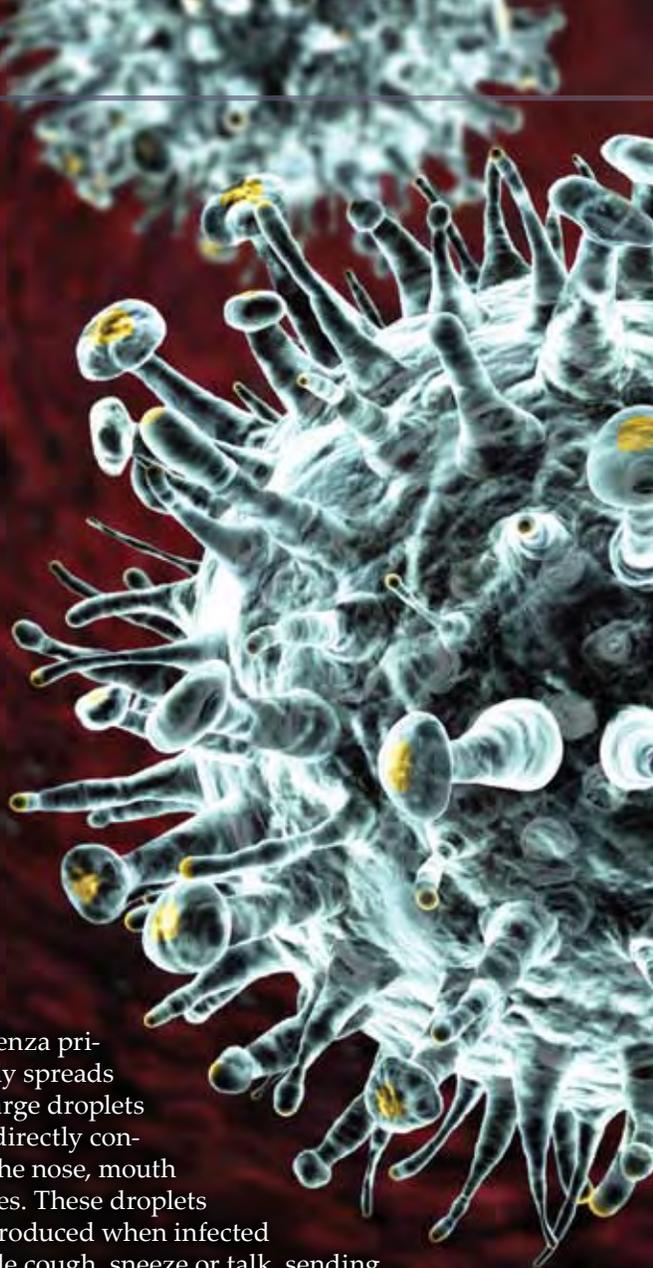
Symptoms of the H1N1 flu are almost the same as the seasonal flu: fever, sore throat, runny nose, nausea, muscle aches and feeling rundown.

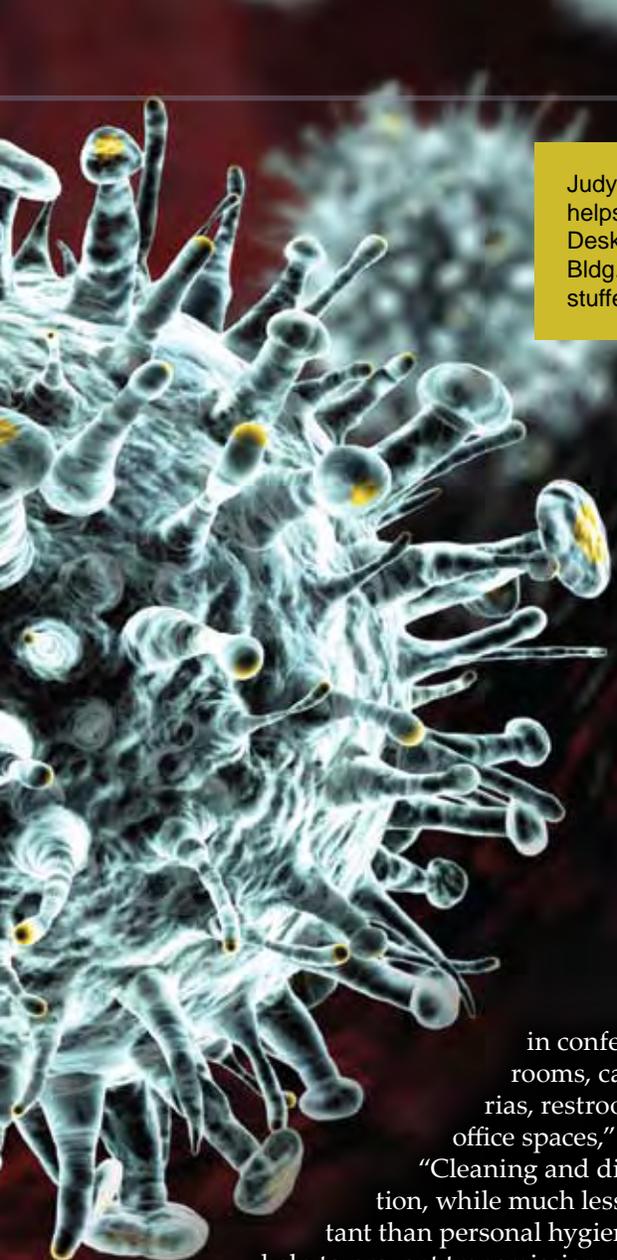
Influenza primarily spreads via large droplets that directly contact the nose, mouth or eyes. These droplets are produced when infected people cough, sneeze or talk, sending relatively large infectious particles and very small sprays (aerosols) into the nearby air and into contact with others.

"H1N1 could reach pandemic levels and become a threat to continuity of operations planning," Young said. "Our key objective is to continue to accomplish our mission while protecting our workforce."

"Hygiene stations" or flu prevention kits have been distributed to all common areas such as restrooms, conference rooms, kitchenettes and break areas. Young said these areas should be frequently sanitized.

"Clean surfaces that people touch often, such as doorknobs, door handles, handrails and telephones, as well as surfaces and tables





Judy Campbell of Information Systems and Infrastructure helps herself to some hand sanitizer at the Front Security Desk of Marine Corps Systems Command headquarters, Bldg. 2200. Security decorated their hand sanitizer with a stuffed pig. (Photo by Bill Johnson-Miles)



the Command Telework Coordinator and Leave Administrator Mary Holland at 432-3179 or Workforce Management and Services Business Manager Laura Tyler at 432-4472.

MCSC has set up the Command H1N1 Swine Flu Information page on its TIGER website as a catch-all for Marine Corps directives, Command information and healthful advice. References placed on the page include MCSC Order 12630.1 (Time and Attendance); MCSC Order 12000.2 (Telework); MCSC Telework Agreement; 2009 OPM PanFlu Guidance; OPM Guide to Telework in the Federal Government; and Telework and Emergency Preparedness.

Young cautioned that, although it is too early to declare H1N1 a pandemic, everyone should take precautions to limit the disease's scope and severity. If it becomes a pandemic, he explained, MCSC will be ready.

"A pandemic virus can cause serious illness because people do not have immunity to the new virus," he said. "Pandemics are different from seasonal outbreaks of influenza that we see every year. Seasonal flu is caused by virus types to which people have already been exposed. Its impact on society is less severe than a pandemic, and influenza vaccines – such as flu shots and nasal sprays – are available to help prevent widespread illness from seasonal flu."

– By Jim Katzaman,  
MCSC Corporate  
Communications

in conference rooms, cafeterias, restrooms and office spaces," he said. "Cleaning and disinfection, while much less important than personal hygiene, may help to prevent transmission of H1N1 virus and other infections."

Telework is also a preventive tool. The National Strategy for Pandemic Influenza Implementation Plan cites the benefits of using telework to slow the spread of disease by keeping face-to-face contact to a minimum.

According to the plan, telework can also help agencies stay functional. "As many employees as possible should have telework capability," the plan states. "This might entail creative thinking beyond current implementation of telework, drawing in employees who otherwise might not engage in remote access and ensuring their effectiveness as a distributed workforce."

For specific questions or concerns about leave administration and telework, contact



# Acquisition Excellence

## MRAP PM receives Wayne E. Meyer Award

Earning a first-time Department of Defense (DoD) award is always nice, but when it's named for the leader who mentored your dad, yourself and your sons, it's extra special. That's exactly what happened to Paul Mann, Joint Program Manager for the Mine Resistant Ambush Protected (MRAP) vehicle program at Marine Corps Systems Command (MCSC). He is the first recipient of the Rear Admiral Wayne E. Meyer Memorial Award, presented at the Pentagon in September.

"No other individual in our Department has made a bigger impact for the warfighters in Iraq and Afghanistan than Paul Mann," said Sean Stackley, Assistant Secretary of the Navy for Research, Development and Acquisition. "His efforts and the vehicles his team delivers have directly led to the saving of countless lives and our ability to accomplish

our objectives in this time of war."

"Paul Mann and the entire MRAP team have done an outstanding job," said Brigadier General Michael Brogan, Commander, MCSC. "That and Paul's professional relationship with Admiral Meyer made him the perfect selection for the inaugural presentation of this award. We are very proud of Paul and his entire team. This is a great honor."

The Meyer Memorial Award, created this year to honor extraordinary members of the acquisition community, is named for the father of the Navy's Aegis weapons system who passed away in September. Meyer was a "Senior Advisory Group Chairman" on three major projects Mann led from 1996 to 2005. Mann's last day with the Admiral was in Bath, Maine, in October 2008 at the christening of a Navy guided-missile Aegis destroyer named for Meyer. The commissioning of *USS Wayne E. Meyer* (DDG 108) took place in early October.

"Admiral Meyer visited my father in the early 1970s when Dad was a Master Chief Fire Control Technician in the Navy," Mann said. "Dad and I both served as civil servants delivering Aegis ships and training their crews to use their missile systems. Admiral Meyer was, is and will always be the 'Father of Aegis.' His genius and love for the Navy cannot be overstated."

Mann's program management philosophies mirrored Meyer's in setting the benchmark for an atmosphere of urgency, cooperation and mutual support. The MRAP program is the highest priority acquisition program in the Department of Defense. It started in October 2006, and under Mann's leadership the program devised and



Paul Mann, Joint Program Manager for the Mine Resistant Ambush Protected vehicle program, receives the Rear Admiral Wayne E. Meyer Memorial Award from Sean Stackley, Assistant Secretary of the Navy for Research, Development and Acquisition. (Pentagon Photo)

# xcellence

executed a rapid acquisition strategy through competitive prototyping, delivering the first vehicles to theater just months after the program's start. Since then, the program has delivered more than 16,000 MRAP trucks along with the support necessary to test, field and sustain the vehicle fleet around the world.

Today the MRAP program remains agile as attention shifts from Iraq to Afghanistan and its vastly different terrain. In coordination with the Space and Naval Warfare Systems Command and U.S. Transportation Command, the program delivered the first MRAP All Terrain Vehicles (M-ATV) to Afghanistan in October.

"Admiral Meyer's dedication and commitment to really big outcomes for the Navy are inspirational and contagious for our

entire MRAP team," Mann said. "I can honestly say that many of the achievements in the Joint MRAP Enterprise were enabled by the training and mentorship he generously shared with me, and, by extension, our entire Joint MRAP team. I am deeply humbled by this recognition and will share it with the numerous teammates who continue the mission to keep our warfighters safe."

– *By Bill Johnson-Miles, MCSC Corporate Communications. Navy Commander Victor Chen, Public Affairs Officer for the Assistant Secretary of the Navy for Research, Development and Acquisition, contributed to this article.*

On a beautiful day in Bath, Maine, in October 2008, Rear Admiral Wayne Meyer (left) and Paul Mann enjoyed a treasured moment together during the christening of the Navy ship named for Meyer. "This picture is worth millions to me," Mann said. "His ship is literally and figuratively on his shoulders. He is a legend. His ship will sail for decades. His fleet of Aegis ships represents the most capable warships ever built on the planet - pretty cool." (Mann Photo)



## M-ATVs and upgraded MRAP Cougars with ISS deploy to Afghanistan

With unprecedented speed the first of thousands of Mine Resistant Ambush Protected (MRAP) All Terrain Vehicles (M-ATV) began deploying to Afghanistan in October, just three months after a contract was awarded. A joint service effort, the deliveries marked a significant milestone achieved by the M-ATV team and the MRAP Joint Program Office (JPO) to protect warfighters with a highly survivable and off-road-capable vehicle.

“We have pulled out all the stops to collapse the schedule and get these vehicles into theater,” said Brigadier General Michael Brogan, Commander, Marine Corps Systems Command and Joint Program Executive Officer of the MRAP Program. “We are doing everything required to ensure that they are safe, that the risk assessments are complete, that they’re fully integrated and flow into Afghanistan.”

MRAP vehicles feature a V-shaped hull to deflect roadside bombs and have been proven to be lifesavers on the battlefield. The procurement of the M-ATV grew from an urgent requirement to provide troops a smaller and more maneuverable vehicle that can go off-road and deal with Afghanistan’s mountainous terrain.

The M-ATV is designed for small-unit combat

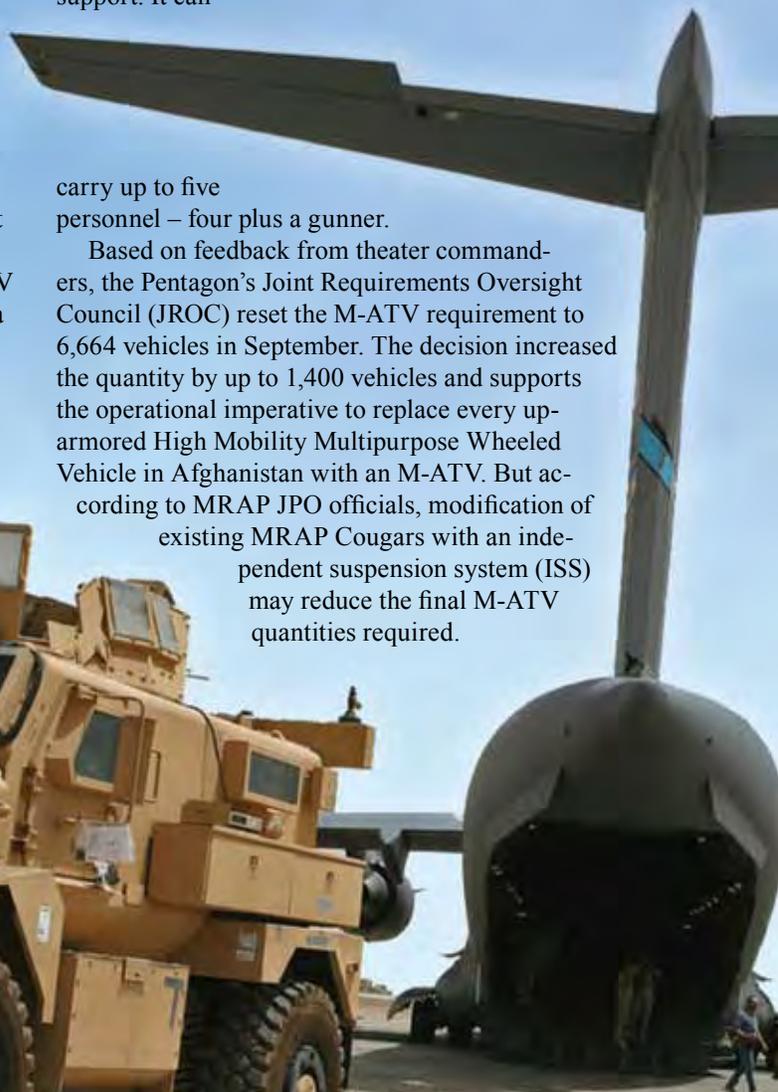
operations in highly restricted rural, mountainous and urban environments, including mounted patrols, reconnaissance, security, convoy protection, communications, command and control, and combat service support. It can

carry up to five personnel – four plus a gunner.

Based on feedback from theater commanders, the Pentagon’s Joint Requirements Oversight Council (JROC) reset the M-ATV requirement to 6,664 vehicles in September. The decision increased the quantity by up to 1,400 vehicles and supports the operational imperative to replace every up-armored High Mobility Multipurpose Wheeled Vehicle in Afghanistan with an M-ATV. But according to MRAP JPO officials, modification of existing MRAP Cougars with an independent suspension system (ISS) may reduce the final M-ATV quantities required.

An upgraded Mine Resistant Ambush Protected (MRAP) vehicle, is driven off an Air Force C-17 in Afghanistan. (Photo by Corporal Aaron Rooks)

# SPI MAT



# FEED STERS

Inflation System, which allows the operator to select the appropriate tire pressure for maneuvering harsher terrain. Another benefit of the ISS is the optimized steering components. Together, all the modifications enhance overall automotive performance, ride quality, payload capability and maneuverability while continuing to provide MRAP levels of protection.

“The Cougar ISS greatly improves mobility to units operating in Operation Enduring Freedom and will help save more lives,” said Kim Yarboro,

Assistant Program Manager of the Cougar MRAP fleet, “allowing the warfighter to follow the enemy into the harshest terrain and do it faster and more comfortably than ever before.”

With the first ISS-capable Cougars delivered to Afghanistan in August, the flow continues as the pipeline fills. In all, more than 2,100 Cougars will be retrofitted with ISS. MRAP officials said other variants, like the MRAP RG-33, are quickly following the Cougar’s lead and profiting from lessons learned with Cougars.

While both the Cougar upgrades and M-ATV programs are on track, efforts to increase the speed of delivery are continually being navigated. Officials say the MRAP team embraces the challenge in its unwavering commitment and support to the troops.

“No matter how hard we think we have it, or how hard we are working, the young men and women out in combat have it dramatically worse,” said Paul Mann, MRAP’s Joint Program Manager. “We will keep pressing until the warfighters all come home safely.”

– By Barbara Hamby,  
MCSC Corporate  
Communications



The first Mine Resistant Ambush Protected (MRAP) All Terrain Vehicle (M-ATV) is off-loaded from an aircraft in Afghanistan. The M-ATV, with its MRAP levels of survivability and off-road capability, is intended to replace every up-armored High Mobility Multipurpose Wheeled Vehicle in Operation Enduring Freedom. (MRAP JPO Photo)

“Part of the calculus is how effective the Cougar ISS is and whether or not it can fill any of the roles in the Marine Corps previously planned for M-ATV,” Brogan said.

The Oshkosh TAK-4 ISS was chosen as the replacement for the Cougar’s old solid axle suspension. It has been used on the Marine Corps’ most mobile wheeled vehicle, the Medium Tactical Vehicle Replacement (MTVR) with great success. Due to the similarities of the MTVR and Cougar, the TAK-4 ISS was adapted to fit the Cougar with only minor changes.

The ISS increases overall suspension travel from 6 to 13 inches, improving the Cougar’s off-road capability, according to the MRAP Joint Program Office. It also includes larger tires with a Central Tire

A Mine Resistant Ambush Protected Cougar equipped with the Oshkosh TAK-4 independent suspension system is shown aboard a C-17 bound for Operation Enduring Freedom. The modified truck will provide Marines better off-road mobility and handling in the rugged terrain of Afghanistan. (MRAP JPO Photo)



# CONTRACTOR

## Candid talks at Town Halls address In-sourcing unease

In-sourcing conjures a mix of apprehension and hope. There is the fear of the unknown along with “an opportunity to excel,” as the Commander of Marine Corps Systems Command (MCSC) explained. “We need to dispel the rumors and calm the fears.”

Brigadier General Michael Brogan addressed the concerns and challenges in a series of Town Hall meetings this past summer with MCSC civilians, vendors and contract workers, explaining how the Command would meet the Department of Defense (DoD) directive to help bring thousands of contract billets back into the civilian workforce.

“We’ll make it work,” the Commander said. “This is a good opportunity to right size our workforce with the proper skill sets.”

Overall, DoD plans to reduce its contractor workforce by 33,000 billets. MCSC’s share of that is to bring its contractor positions down from 6,200 to 600 people with most of the reduction coming in the near future.

At the same time, MCSC’s mission is expanding. That means the contractor contraction in the

next several years will occur at the same time the Command is increasing its overall workforce. The result is simultaneous growth and contraction as the Command steps smartly ahead to find elbowroom for everyone.

“We don’t have room for 300 more people at Hospital Point,” Brogan said, referring to ever-tightening workspaces and a place where lawns have given way to parking spots.

John Young, Director of Facilities, Services and Supply for MCSC, is leading the way to find more facilities. He said he and his staff are working with the General Services Administration to lease space, including sites in local towns.

In-sourcing will also take place in conjunction with the Command’s new Strategic Plan, a portion of which directly addresses hiring workers that best fill MCSC needs.

“We are a Nation at war,” Brogan said. “We want to become well postured to accomplish our mission.”

At all three Town Halls the Commander addressed and answered questions about how MCSC will change workloads from contractors to government civilians.

Positions, not people, he emphasized, will be converted into the new billets.

From the start, he said, contract positions to be reduced will be tackled in priority order.

This is how it will work. Between now and the end of fiscal year 2010 the Command will identify all support contractors. Positions most vulnerable are those with option years that end in 2010. Then the Command will look



A group of brand new federal employees swear or affirm an oath during Marine Corps Systems Command’s newly expanded New Join Orientation Class. The new class started in August, and as of October more than 130 new government employees, many of them tied to the MCSC In-sourcing initiative, have been hired and attended this new training. (Photo by Bill Johnson-Miles)

# CONTRACTION

at contractors who work within MCSC work areas rather than provide support from a distance. The rationale, the Brigadier General explained, is that if the contractor's service is important enough to require a presence alongside government employees, then that work should be converted to full-time federal billets.

At the same time, Brogan cautioned, "We can't eliminate all contractors. For instance, [information technology] contractors are going to stay where they are. If functions are not inherently governmental, they will be the last priority for in-sourcing."

The Commander also addressed the special sensitivities involved as MCSC works with small business.

"In-sourcing will have an impact," he said. "We do not want to drive our small-business partners out of business. Of 1,200 support contractors we have right now, only one out of six will be eliminated next year. The impact, though significant, won't be overwhelming. It's going to be a several-year process, and we're going to work with them to keep everything smooth.

"We've worked hard to establish relationships with all of you," the Brigadier General told the vendors. "We're all going to have to adjust. A wholesale loss of businesses won't do any of us any good."

As for contractors who might want to apply for government positions, Brogan said, "We encourage everyone to apply and compete for positions. Remember, we're converting work, not people, into government billets."

In the broad context, the Commander noted that 50 percent of today's workload in MCSC is being borne by support contractors. The Command needs to change

that ratio to 75 percent federal workers and 25 percent performed by contractors.

"We appreciate that a large number of contract workers are retired military men and women," Brogan said. "We'll make mistakes along the way, and we'll need to get some feedback throughout this process."

Within days of the Town Halls – before the fiscal year started – MCSC was already embarked on hiring new government workers to fill formerly contract billets as well as those created as part of the planned Command expansion. Those depending on MCSC support, the Commander said, could not afford to wait.

He cited the two objectives of the Marine Corps: Accomplish the mission, and welfare of the troops. Any actions taken through in-sourcing, he said, must support those objectives.

"We support the 19-year-old Lance Corporal forward deployed in Iraq and Afghanistan," Brogan said. "He's not an ideal. He's real. We won't let him down, and I know you won't either."

– By Jim Katzaman, MCSC Corporate Communications

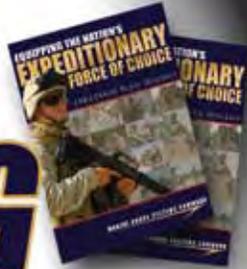


(From left) Jim Irwin, Workforce Management and Development Director; Marcia Case, Financial Management Director; Dan Pierson, Deputy Program Executive Officer for Land Systems, and Jim Westerholm, Product Group Director for Communications, Intelligence and Networking Systems, discuss In-sourcing at one of the Town Hall meetings held this past summer. (Photo by Bill Johnson-Miles)



Brigadier General Michael Brogan, Commander, Marine Corps Systems Command (MCSC), addresses In-sourcing concerns and challenges in one of the Town Hall meetings held this past summer with MCSC civilians, vendors and contract workers. (Photo by Bill Johnson-Miles)

# LOOKING FORWARD



Bob Williams, Chief Management Officer, discusses the new Strategic Plan publication during the October Town Hall. (Photo by Jennifer Gonzalez)

## Town Hall kicks off, celebrates new MCSC Strategic Plan

This was “a huge team effort, and you all participated in it,” said Brigadier General Michael Brogan, Commander, Marine Corps Systems Command (MCSC), as he explained at a Town Hall how everyone fits into the creation of MCSC’s new Strategic Plan.

Linked to the Commandant’s Marine Corps Vision and Strategy 2025, the MCSC Strategic Plan presents the Command’s roadmap for the next five years in a host of areas such as process improvement,

workforce development, teamwork and stakeholder relationships.

“If you don’t know where you’re going, any road will do,” Brogan said at the Town Hall. “We can’t do business like that.”

The Commander said it is essential for people in MCSC “to understand the Marine Corps’ intent two levels up. You can do that through Marine Corps Vision and Strategy 2025 and our Strategic Plan. They show how you contribute to those two documents and how you fit into the overall picture.”

Robert Williams, MCSC Chief Management Officer and Goal Champion for improving mission support processes, added his own emphasis. “This is your Plan,” he told the Town Hall audience. “After



Dr. John Burrow, Executive Director, Marine Corps Systems Command (MCSC), stresses a point at the MCSC Strategic Plan Town Hall in October. (Photo by Jennifer Gonzalez)



you leave here today I want you to own this Plan. I want to see it in everyone's cubicle. Your input is essential."

Dr. John Burrow, MCSC

Executive Director and Goal Champion for achieving excellence in teaming, noted that he had returned that morning from a trip to Kuwait where he talked with Marines in the theater of operations. "The equipment they're fighting with," he said, "is the result of what everyone in this Command has produced in the last seven years. I thank you for that."

Williams urged everyone to be actively involved as Strategic Plan Objective Teams circulate throughout the Command. "We want you to engage them," he said. "We'll create a data base with all of your concerns. We all need to do our jobs so all our Marines can come home safe."

Interacting with and implementing the Strategic Plan started right away because the document has both long- and short-term aspects. Within its first 90 days, for example, Goal Champions and their teams are spreading out to research and implement various Plan objectives. Most of the teams have been meeting since before the Town Hall.

In one instance, Colonel Mike Micucci, Military Deputy for Program Executive Officer for Land Systems, convened his team to hear a presentation on social networking and how MCSC might fit in. They plan to "develop a strategy to ensure that all members of our Command understand how their work is linked to the Marine in the operating forces."

The Strategic Plan teams hope to draw information and inspiration from any place and anyone inside or outside the Command, as shown by the Town Hall appearance of NFL Hall of Famer and former Washington Redskin cornerback Darrell Green.

He talked about how he created his own strategic plan in grade school after he was ridiculed for being too little. "I decided I was going to have a vision,

Brigadier General Michael Brogan, Commander, Marine Corps Systems Command, presents guest speaker Darrell Green with a Marine Corps Fleece during the Command's Strategic Plan Town Hall in October. (Photo by Jennifer Gonzalez)



a mission and a plan," he said. "I became comfortable enough with it to know it was not going to come overnight. My first plan and vision was to run track in the eighth grade, and I did.

"You have to have a realistic plan," he continued. "I didn't say I was going to be the starting center for the Los Angeles Lakers. Strategic plans work based on right thinking. People are the bricks, and bricks make the building. You need to have a vision, passion and a dream motivated by your own pride and commitment. My plan took me to a place at the highest level of all athletics. When you do something right, noble and responsible, you always get more than you're after."

Brigadier General Brogan then illustrated how everyone is vested in the success of the Strategic Plan. He asked everyone who had been deployed to Iraq or Afghanistan to stand up. Then he asked everyone who had a co-worker who deployed to stand up. After he asked everyone who knew anyone who had deployed to stand up, all the chairs were empty.

"The bottom line is, this is personal," he said. "I've always talked about the 19-year-old Lance Corporal. That's why we're here. That's who we support."

— By Jim Katzaman, MCSC  
Corporate Communications

NFL Hall of Famer and former Washington Redskin cornerback Darrell Green shows off his Super Bowl rings as well as other memorabilia during the Command's Strategic Plan Town Hall in October. (Photo by Jennifer Gonzalez)



# OLD WARRIOR

## AE Day speaker motivates MCTSSA team

The old Marine warrior didn't mince words when he spoke at Marine Corps Tactical Systems Support Activity's Acquisition Excellence (AE) Day at Camp Pendleton, Calif., in July. The words retired Colonel James "Irish" Egan used were to the point, sometimes colorful and definitely motivational.

"Being a Marine is serious business," said the AE Day keynote speaker. "We're not a social club or a fraternal organization.

We don't sell cookies or magazines. We're an assemblage of warriors. We're in the ass-kicking business, and we do it the old-fashioned way, up close and personal, with a rifle and bayonet. The mere association of the word 'Marine' with a crisis is an automatic source of confidence and encouragement to all."

The Colonel was a member of Unified Task Force Somalia during Operation Restore Hope in the early 1990s. His awards include the Legion of Merit with star, the Bronze Star with Combat "V" and the Purple Heart with three stars. He is an experienced warfighter.

"Some of our citizens who hear old jarheads like me talk about love for the battlefield conclude that we love war," Egan said. "Nothing could be farther from the truth. Those of us who have seen the face of death in combat understand that it's not about loyalty or some abstract notion concerning war aims or national strategy. Marines fight and die for each other. It's just that simple.... Despite the fervent wishes of well-meaning people, wars are inevitable. For the past 234 years virtually every corner of the globe has been littered with the debris of battle and the remains of Marines who have given their all."

Currently Egan is the Program Liaison Officer to 1 Marine Expeditionary Force (MEF) for the Marine Expeditionary Rifle Squadron. Although retired, he has deployed several times to Iraq in support of 1 MEF and

Colonel James "Irish" Egan, Marine Corps Tactical Systems Support Activity's keynote speaker for its Acquisition Excellence Day, motivates the audience by defining the real Marine Corps warfighter. (Photo by Bill Johnson-Miles)



Retired Colonel Steve Fisher (left), Director of the Marine Corps Warfighting Lab Liaison Office with I Marines Expeditionary Force, discusses his Acquisition Excellence Day speech with Colonel Alan Pratt, Marine Corps Tactical Systems Support Activity's Commanding Officer. (Photo by Bill Johnson-Miles)

We



At a Marine Corps Tactical Systems Support Activity (MCTSSA) Birthday Ball fundraiser, Todd Duguid is served lunch by a MCTSSA Marine during the Command's Acquisition Excellence Day in July. (Photo by Bill Johnson-Miles)

Operation Iraqi Freedom (OIF).

"Even as we sit here relaxed and comfortable, the fight's on in Afghanistan and Iraq," the Colonel said. "Hardly a day goes by that we do not hear about one of our brother Marines who has created a new chapter of heroic achievement or has made the ultimate sacrifice."

The AE Day keynote speaker indicated that, to date in OIF and Operation Enduring Freedom, more than 6,000 Purple Hearts have been awarded to Marines, more than 600 of those posthumously.

"Most of America just doesn't get it and still does not know the truth," Egan stated. "It does not bother me that war is an image that America would rather ignore.... Those with less of a sense of service to the Nation never understand it when men and women of character step forward and look danger and adversity straight in the eye, refusing to blink or give ground even to their own deaths. The protected can't begin to understand the price paid so they and their families can sleep safe and free at night. What they are missing, what they will never understand, is the sense of commitment, joy and honor of serving one's country in uniform."

The retired Marine reminded everyone that we are still at war, and have been fighting now for more than eight years.

"Like it or not, America is engaged in a war today against an enemy that is savage, offers no quarter, whose only objectives are to either kill every one of our families in our homeland, or enslave us with a sick form of extremism that serves no purpose that rational men and women can understand," the Colonel said. "We Marines will continue to send the strongest message to the enemies of America in every clime and place that we mean business. No better friend, no worse enemy. Be polite, be professional, but guess what, Mr. Terrorist? We have a plan to kill every enemy we meet on the battlefield. Ooh! Rah!"

In order for the audience to really understand who they are supporting, the keynote speaker painted a picture of the Marine warfighter.



During Marine Corps Tactical Systems Support Activity's (MCTSSA) Acquisition Excellence Day, Michael Canterbury, MCTSSA's Technical Director, congratulates Deborah Barksdale for receiving the team Award for Excellence in Financial Management. (Photo by Bill Johnson-Miles)

"Missing from all the recruiting advertisements is the hard fact that a warrior's lot is to go in harm's way and perhaps die for his people, to possibly take lives at the risk of his or her own," Egan said. "Most Marines believe that their journey through life is not a trip to the grave with the intention of arriving safely in an attractive and well preserved body. No, they would rather skid in sideways, cigar in one hand, favorite beverage in the other, body thoroughly used up, totally worn out and shouting 'Ooh Rah! What a ride!'"

The old warrior stressed how important it is to remember that these Marines are real people.

"While debates over sending Americans into harm's way are always about issues of foreign policy and geo-politics, for me, it's always about young Lance Corporals and Second Lieutenants and other very real people," Egan concluded. "They have names, ranks, serial numbers, faces, families and futures that may never be."

Those futures, he added, depend on the support and hard work of everyone at MCTSSA and Marine Corps Systems Command.

— By Bill Johnson-Miles, MCSC Corporate Communications

## MCTSSA rolls the DICE testing systems communications

If your system communicates in some form or fashion, can it communicate not only with other systems within the Marine Corps and the Department of Defense (DoD), but also with systems operated by Homeland Security agencies and possibly coalition forces? In today's global environment, it may need to. That's why the Joint Interoperability Test Command (JITC), a subordinate organization of the Defense Information Systems Agency, conducts DoD Interoperability Communications Exercises (DICE) three times a year.

Bill Riddle coordinates Marine Corps Tactical Systems Support Activity's (MCTSSA) participation in DICE. MCTSSA is a Marine Corps Systems Command (MCSC) organization located at Camp Pendleton, Calif.

"When you're buying a new communication system, it is required to prove its interoperability with everybody else's similar communication system," Riddle said. "Everything has to be certified for interoperability. That certification is good for four years. So if you do nothing else with that system four years from now, if you still plan on using it in the future, it has to be recertified. That's because information technology changes so fast, systems could be left behind."

According to Riddle, Joint Chiefs of Staff (JCS) Instruction 6214.01E requires the certification. DICE is supported by JCS and sponsored by the Joint Forces Command, with JITC actually conducting the exercises. JITC's mission is joint interoperability certification of Command, Control, Communications,



Private First Class Clayton Bloor checks cable connections on the multiplexer case of the Lightweight Multiband Satellite Terminal while Sergeant Joel Valencia and Lance Corporal Tyree Folks add support. Marine Wing Communications Squadron 38 provided these Marines to supplement Marine Corps Tactical Systems Support Activity personnel during one of the Department of Defense Interoperability Communications Exercises. (Photo by Thomas Prothro)

Computers and Intelligence Systems. The Command not only tests new systems, but also systems that have been modified or have changed functionalities.

"In keeping with that mission, the focus of DICE is to conduct testing that results in certification of such systems while also exploring new and emerging technologies," Riddle said.

DICE features a representative joint task force

# Can You HEAR Me

Operating Forces Help Desk Satellite Communications Specialist Dan Ortiz remotely controls the Phoenix Satellite Terminal during one of the Department of Defense Interoperability Communications Exercises at Marine Corps Tactical Systems Support Activity. (Photo by Thomas Prothro)



operational area network (OAN) with participation by all the services and other interested federal, state, local and coalition organizations.

“While the obvious emphasis of the exercise is on the transmission and switching equipment that make up the OAN,” MCTSSA’s coordinator said, “any system that would ride the OAN when deployed is a candidate for participation.”

MCTSSA ensures that a Marine Corps presence is maintained in the exercise OAN, and they operate those Marine Corps systems in need of interoperability certification, supporting MCSC program offices in doing so. For the most part, Riddle coordinates with MCSC’s Communications, Intelligence and Networking Systems’ (CINS) Program Managers.

“MCTSSA has greatly helped us get our systems certified with DICE,” said Chuck Greer, a CINS Tactical Networks Engineer. “DICE is important to MCSC because it lets us take advantage of a shared test environment where we all bring our communications systems together in one venue with our tactical technical support personnel. It also helps because we all share in the cost and resource savings that we would otherwise expend on separate dedicated tests.”

Some of the Marine Corps systems CINS has recently tested and certified using DICE include the Digital Technical Control Refresh, Support Wide Area Network Satellite System, Lightweight Multiband Satellite Terminal and Phoenix Satellite System.

“When you’re testing a satellite system, once you are up and operating it seems kind of static,” Riddle said. “It’s what we can do over that satellite system that is important. So, we’re making phone calls, sending emails, transferring data files, and testing to see if other systems can receive and read the information.”

JITC sends testers to MCTSSA to

operate the equipment, and they quite often use the Joint Enhanced Corps Communication System (JECCS) to conduct the tests.

“JECCS provides you the interface between the user and the satellite system, so to speak,” Riddle indicated. “A satellite system can do nothing by itself. You can establish a link between here and wherever, but then to be able to use it, you need something like JECCS. It has telephone switches, data servers; it’s a technical control device that takes transmission media from the satellite system and multiplexes all those different kinds of data and voice channels into the one aggregate signal to send it over the air.”

The communications expert loves his job.

“I enjoy what I’m doing. I enjoy working with young troops,” Riddle concluded. “Bringing all these pieces together is what I do. I’m the spider in the middle of the web pulling in the necessary items to make it all happen.”

Thanks to DICE, Riddle and his teammates at MCTSSA and JITC, the testing and certification of systems ensures that Marines in Afghanistan or anywhere in the world can communicate within theater or back to the United States with any organization necessary.

— By Bill Johnson-Miles, MCSC Corporate Communications



Corporal David Irvin of the 15th Marine Expeditionary Unit exams the radio frequency patch panel of the Phoenix Satellite Terminal. He was at Marine Corps Tactical Systems Support Activity for Support Wide Area Network satellite training while one of the Department of Defense Interoperability Communications Exercises was in progress. (Photo by Thomas Prothro)

# Now?

## M2C2 transforms battlefield communication

Christmas came early for the Marine Corps after prototype-testing officials with the Department of the Navy announced and displayed the first combat-ready Mobile Modular Command and Control (M2C2) vehicle on Camp Pendleton, Calif., in September.

With on-the-move satellite technology that can transmit vital battlefield information anywhere in the world in seconds, the M2C2 represents never before seen battlefield capabilities.

“Nothing like this has ever been fielded before,” said Basil Moncrief, M2C2’s Project Officer with Marine Corps Systems Command (MCSC). “The M2C2 provides and utilizes every lateral and vertical communication asset.”

In the past vital command and control (C2) operations could only be conducted from stationary outposts. Now, regimental commanders have the ability to make the most informed decisions and give precise orders while traveling up to 60 mph covering a 600-mile radius.

The M2C2 is essentially a Mine Resistant Ambush Protected vehicle that also has the capability to sync with and aid coalition forces around the world in humanitarian assistance efforts. Natural disasters often destroy communication infrastructure

leaving any number of victims stranded in a barren environment.

“If a tsunami were to hit today, we could establish communication and cooperate with coalition forces in ways we couldn’t before,” said Christine Liou, a M2C2 System Engineer working for the Space and Naval Warfare Systems Command Pacific, San Diego. “Delivering this very same technology to the frontlines with the M2C2 has that same potential to save lives.”

Although primarily designed for combat, the M2C2’s ability to mobilize and establish mass communication within moments in any type of environment and operation only expands the vehicle’s already limitless potential.

“This has been both the most challenging and exciting project I have ever worked on,” Liou said.

The combat-ready M2C2, which just completed



The first Mobile Modular Command and Control vehicle, or M2C2, completes its final rounds of integration testing at the Marine Corps Tactical Systems Support Activity at Camp Pendleton, Calif., in September, just days before testing officials announced that it was combat ready. (Photo by Private First Class Daniel Boothe)

# COMMAND AND CONTROL

testing at Marine Corps Tactical Systems Support Activity, was completed by design and testing officials at lightening speed, going from blueprints to battle-ready in six months.

“We received full funding in May and began fielding the system in September. This is light years faster than any typical acquisition process,” Moncrief said. “Normally an acquisition program of this complexity takes anywhere from four to 10 years to field.”

Special military operations conducted in Afghanistan last year highlighted the already critical need for on-the-move data communication, according to Major Mathew McBroom, Communications Officer, Special Purpose Marine Air-Ground Task Force Afghanistan, and M2C2 Focus Group Chairman.

“We have been constrained by radios and networks in the past, setting them up as we go,” McBroom added. “But the operations we conduct today are very dynamic and often require us to move from place to place.”

“As we move into the digital age of command and control, we need to be able to shoot, move and communicate all at the same time,” Moncrief said. “Being able to effectively command and control while moving is a huge advantage on the battlefield, an advantage we haven’t had until now.”

“In comparison, it’s like handing someone who is used to drawing with charcoal a brand new brush to paint a picture,” McBroom said.

The Corps can expect to see a total of three systems directed by the Marine Corps Oversight Committee, with the first one expected to deploy to Afghanistan this fall, according to MCSC officials.

The Mobile Modular Command and Control vehicle’s Tactical Entry Point satellite system is typically towed behind the vehicle for enhanced capabilities. The completely self-reliant vehicle produces enough power to generate both the vehicle and system. (Photo by Private First Class Daniel Boothe)

“Knowing that the system will immediately go into the hands of Marine Corps warfighters and make a difference in the war on terror is the greatest accomplishment any of us could ever hope for,” Moncrief said.

— By Private First Class Daniel Boothe, Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton





# TIME

## Newest combat equipment heads to war

The clock is ticking. With sufficient data already in hand, according to Lieutenant Colonel A.J. Pasagian, there is no reason to delay getting lifesaving equipment to Marines under fire.

The Lieutenant Colonel, Program Manager for Infantry Combat Equipment (PM ICE) at Marine Corps Systems Command (MCSC), pointedly described improvements to Marine combat gear in the years since the early days of the war on terrorism in 2001, compared to what's available today.

Pasagian was one of many Marines and equipment experts on hand in August when MCSC presented Media Day at its Gruntworks Squad Integration Facility in Stafford, Va. The object was to show how far and fast combat equipment has progressed in only a few years.

Gruntworks experts analyze the equipment Marine riflemen carry in terms of human factors, combat effectiveness, logistics and load, with a view toward making changes that increase efficiency and survivability. At Gruntworks the Marine Corps evaluates the best industry, government, academia and foreign solutions offered through simulation and human systems integration and modeling.

Sergeants Paul Peacock and Garrett Ferris portrayed Marines suited up in circa 2001 and today's

gear, respectively. Asked how he felt inside the new versus old gear, Ferris replied, "Protected."

He was a rifleman with Fox Company, 2nd Battalion, 5th Marine Regiment, during a 2004 deployment for Operation Iraqi Freedom (OIF). He has a lot of experience with items the Marines plan to phase out.

The equipment of eight years ago, Ferris explained, "left your lower back exposed. With the new gear there's more protection with side SAPI plates [Small Arms Protective Inserts (body armor plates)]. The new helmets are also lighter than the old helmets."

As Pasagian stated, the modern uniform provides increased areas of coverage and room to insert plates. This, he said, offers better protection against direct live fire.

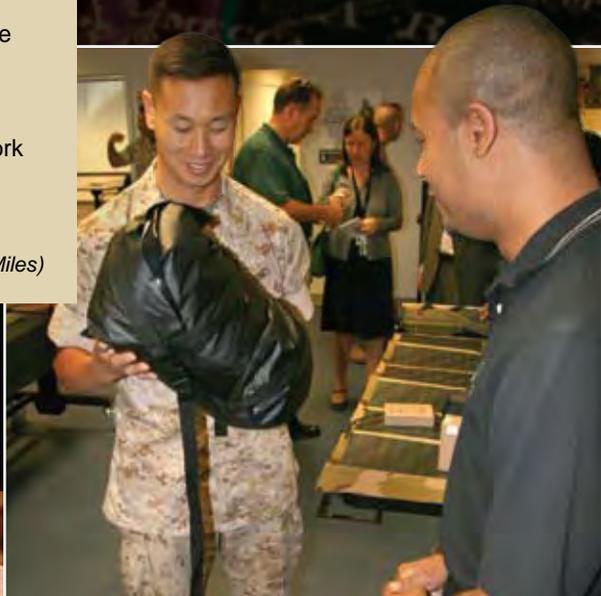
Peacock was deployed for OIF during the last part of 2004 and the beginning of 2005 as an assistant team leader with a scout sniper platoon in 1st Battalion, 3rd Marine Regiment. He said the transition to the new equipment is easy.

"Once you put it on and get used to it," he said, "your mindset

Lighter helmets

Additional protection with SAPI plates

During a Marine Corps Systems Command (MCSC) event held at their Gruntworks facility in Stafford, Va., Major Chi Park discusses the features of the new Prototype 3 Season Sleeping System with Guy Haskins. Both work for MCSC's Program Manager for Infantry Combat Equipment. (Photo by Bill Johnson-Miles)



# SENSITIVE

## Enhanced night vision optics

becomes that gear. It all comes down to training.”

Other innovations on display at Gruntworks included improved load-bearing equipment, the integrated intra-squad radio, enhanced night vision optics and flame-resistant organizational gear (FROG). Some of the items were not yet in the hands of deployed Marines, but Pasagian said they would be on the way to the war zone without delay.

## Integrated intra-squad radio

“In the last two and a half years,” he said, “we’ve gotten a lot of data about what Marines are looking for. We’ve got to get these to the field. Every Marine going to Afghanistan is going to get them.”

The emphasis, the Lieutenant Colonel

said, is not to invent, test and tweak new equipment when industry partners already have items on the shelf that will meet warfighter needs.

“We know the technology is out there for outerwear,” Pasagian said. “We don’t want to waste time on development because our focus is on the war. We could do more analysis, but we’re confident we have sufficient data based on user evaluations.”

He said the goal is to issue bags with new equipment before Marines deploy next year.

“We’re making urgent purchases to satisfy warfighter requirements for our Marines in time for the 2010 rotation,” the Lieutenant Colonel said. “Our initial buy is right off the [General Services Administration] schedule. We will ship and direct the bags to the theater within the next few months.”

As an example, he noted that FROG production is ahead of schedule.

“We’ve picked up on performance issues for durability,” Pasagian said. “At the same time the wearer gets the flame-resistant characteristics. I think we hit the sweet spot on this.”

— By Jim Katzaman, MCSC Corporate Communications

## Improved camouflage



Sergeants Garrett Ferris (left) and Paul Peacock, both Infantry Officers Course instructors at The Basic School on Marine Corps Base Quantico, Va., test their gear in the Gruntworks’ Immersive Trainer. Peacock is wearing gear from 2001 while Ferris is in current gear. (Photo by Bill Johnson-Miles)

# BIG

## Award

## MCSC Lead Logistician earns recognition

Lavonne Robinson, Lead Logistician for Marine Corps Systems Command's Marine Corps Common Hardware Suite (MCHS), received the 2009 Blacks In Government (BIG) Meritorious Service Award this past summer.

"She's not just a good logistician," said her supervisor, Steve Cabrian, Team Lead for Information Technology (IT) Infrastructure. "She also has been an example for young blacks who are looking at the federal government as a viable career choice.

"She founded the BIG Crossroads Quantico Chapter," Cabrian added. "She's made a longtime career effort, and she was recognized for it."

MCHS is a major strategic sourcing vehicle for Marine Corps IT hardware. Robinson assumed a critical leadership role and demonstrated her proficiency by directing the overall lifecycle sustainment of MCHS hardware. As the MCHS Lead Logistician, she developed a logistics support requirements package that covers more than 50,000 laptops, desktops and servers fielded to Marine Corps operating forces.

As the senior logistician on multifunctional teams that support the MCHS, Robinson led or participated in various Integrated Process Teams and was a focal point for lifecycle logistics within the MCHS team. There she facilitated efforts to integrate logistics elements into an effective and affordable support plan.

At the BIG chapter Robinson is Second Vice President and Chairman of the Communication

Committee. She previously held the position of President of BIG at the Crossroads, serving two consecutive terms from January 2007 through December 2008. Under her leadership, BIG at the Crossroads, membership increased by more than 10 times with the recruiting of non-African-American members, and the chapter continues to grow. The Quantico organization has provided scholarship support to more than 135 graduating students.

"It's an honor to be recognized after being involved for such a long time in so many things," said Robinson, who has been at MCSC since 1998. "I like to help everyone. That's just being me."

— By Jim Katzaman, MCSC Corporate Communications



## Marine Corps Systems Command Awardees

### Legion of Merit

Colonel James Braden  
RS

Colonel David Karcher  
Chief of Staff

Colonel Edward Smith  
CESS

Colonel Jeffrey Morsch  
LCL

Colonel Jonathan Pearl  
MC2S

### Meritorious Service Medal

Lieutenant Colonel Bamidele Abogunrin  
IWS

Lieutenant Colonel Christopher Bey  
SIAT

Lieutenant Colonel Gregory King  
CIO

Major Jeffrey Forbes  
PEO LS

Major James Druery  
CINS

Major Michael Mastria  
PROG

Major Bradley Pennella  
AFSS

Major Albert Potraz  
MCTSSA

Major Luis Lara  
CESS

Major Paul Quimby  
ISI

Major Jian Xu  
CINS

Major Matthew Youngblood  
AFSS

Captain Jason Anderson  
AFSS

Captain Michael Kendrick  
CINS

Chief Warrant Officer 4  
Steven Pietrowski  
GTES

Master Gunnery Sergeant Anthony Berlinghoff  
MC2I

Master Gunnery Sergeant John Bowditch  
MCTSSA

Master Sergeant Scott Martin  
MC2I

### Navy and Marine Corps Commendation Medal

Lieutenant Colonel Gregory Rhoden  
GCSS-MC

Lieutenant Colonel Timothy Tinner  
Reserve Affairs

Major James Lee  
MC2I

Major Michael Middleton  
PROG

Captain Sean Hurley  
ISI

Captain Keith Luzbetak  
LCL

Captain Joseph Shusko  
IWS

Captain Jordan Spahr  
ISI



Brigadier General Michael Brogan (center), Commander, Marine Corps Systems Command, presented members of the Mine Resistant Ambush Protected Vehicle Joint Program Office with awards during a July ceremony. Government employees received Navy Meritorious Civilian Service Medals and contract support personnel received letters of appreciation. (Photo by Lance Corporal Esteban Gallegos)

Captain Kevin Stoffell  
SIAT

Captain Joseph Wills  
Commander

Chief Warrant Officer 3 Jeffrey Hedinger  
AMMO

Gunnery Sergeant Angel Huertas  
Reserve Affairs

Gunnery Sergeant Shawn Johnson  
MCTSSA

Gunnery Sergeant Jennifer Keith  
CINS

Gunnery Sergeant Jon Linehan  
MC2I

Gunnery Sergeant Peter Strinden  
IWS

Staff Sergeant David Andrew  
AFSS

Staff Sergeant Martin Zamorano  
MC2I

### Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal

Lieutenant Colonel Kevin Reilly  
GTES

Captain Jason Cramer  
MC2I



Brigadier General Michael Brogan (left), Commander, Marine Corps Systems Command, presents Corporal Drew Rageth, Commander's Driver, with the Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal in August. (Photo by Jennifer Gonzalez)

## Marine Corps Systems Command Awardees

Gunnery Sergeant Douglas Gress  
AFSS

Staff Sergeant Frank Drake  
AAVS

Sergeant Nicholas Steffen  
RS

Sergeant Kyle White  
AFSS

Corporal Drew Rageth  
MC2I

Laura Gilmartin  
ISI

Charlette Hudson  
MRAP

Timothy Iantelli  
MRAP

Patricia LaPlante  
CINS

Donald Livingston  
MRAP

George Morrison  
AMMO

Randolph Murdock  
AMMO

Patricia Neves  
CESS

Steven Rienstra  
MRAP

Kerry Riese  
MRAP

Andrew Rodgers  
MRAP

Elizabeth Sedlacek  
ISI

Jeffery Verner  
PEO LS

Thomas Voth  
ISI

Janet Wenzel  
WMD

Patricia LaPlante  
CINS

Wayne Moquin  
IWS

George Morrison  
AMMO

Randolph Murdock  
AMMO

Patricia Neves  
CESS

James Ripley  
AFSS

Shelley Seay  
WMD

Brenda Thompson  
LCL

Thomas Voth  
ISI

Janet Wenzel  
WMD

Brigadier General Michael Brogan (left), Commander, Marine Corps Systems Command, presents Colonel Jeff Morsch, former Deputy Assistant Commander for Life Cycle Logistics, with a U.S. Flag during the Colonel's Retirement Ceremony in August. *(Photo by Bill Johnson-Miles)*

Members of the Marine Corps Systems Command volleyball team show off the trophies they earned to Brigadier General Michael Brogan (center), Commander, Marine Corps Systems Command. The team earned second place in the Quantico intramural league. *(Photo by Jennifer Gonzalez)*

### Superior Civilian Service Award

James Ripley  
AFSS

### Meritorious Civilian Service Award

James Baumgartner  
MRAP

Chris Berry  
MRAP

Ross Boelke  
MRAP

Dennis Cooper  
PEO LS

Leslie Ferguson  
MRAP

### Certificate of Retirement

Harry Basnight  
CIO

Gigi Brown  
IP

Dennis Cooper  
PEO LS

Laura Gilmartin  
ISI

### Federal Length of Service

Ira Patterson (45 Years)  
CT

Beverly Byram (35 Years)  
Commander

Tina Hairfield (30 Years)  
CESS

Jeanette Hankins-Griffin (30 Years)  
ISI

Marcellina King (30 Years)  
RM



Captain Quinn Nash (right), Commander's Aide, reenlisted Staff Sergeant Thomas Gilbertson in September. *(Photo by Jennifer Gonzalez)*

## Marine Corps Systems Command Awardees

Evangeline Montgomery (30 Years)  
ISI

Jeffery Verner (30 Years)  
PEO LS

Jane Barentine (25 Years)  
ISI

David Berry (25 Years)  
Contracts

Elizabeth Brown (25 Years)  
RM

Robert Chappell (25 Years)  
LCL

David Coe (25 Years)  
CINS

Jerrilee de Geus (25 Years)  
GTES

Jeffrey Gibbs (25 Years)  
LCL

Robert Hoffman (25 Years)  
AFSS

Diane Howell-Schramm (25 Years)  
F&S

Mary Jordan (25 Years)  
ISI

Tommy Miles (25 Years)  
TRASYS

Eric Robustell (25 Years)  
ISI

William Scott Story (25 Years)  
GTES

Todd Wagenhorst (25 Years)  
CESS

Jon Wills (25 Years)  
PEO LS

Troy Wright (25 Years)  
AMMO

Praful Bharucha (20 Years)  
SIAT

Tonya Blalock (20 Years)  
GCSS-MC

Jacqueline Brent (20 Years)  
IP

Robert Celeste (20 Years)  
CT

Diane Daley (20 Years)  
CINS

John Gay (20 Years)  
SIAT

Patricia Greco-Parise (20 Years)  
PEO LS

Richard Hardy (20 Years)  
AMMO

Mary Harpe (20 Years)  
LCL

Phyllis Hurlock (20 Years)  
PROG

Dr. John Burrow (left), Executive Director, Marine Corps Systems Command, congratulates James Ripley, former Fire Support Systems Program Manager, after presenting him with the Superior Civilian Service Medal during Ripley's Retirement Ceremony in July. *(Photo by Bill Johnson-Miles)*

Sherry Johnson (20 Years)  
AFSS

Kenneth Jordan (20 Years)  
F&S

Joseph Lipinski (20 Years)  
PEO LS

Steven Manchester (20 Years)  
IP

John McGough (20 Years)  
PEO LS

Joseph McPherson (20 Years)  
AFSS

Virginia Montano (20 Years)  
IP

John Morris (20 Years)  
AFSS

Scott Rideout (20 Years)  
PEO LS

Alan Stockett (20 Years)  
LCL

Phecifnese Swain (20 Years)  
LCL

Penny Whetzler (20 Years)  
MRAP

Lynda Zimba (20 Years)  
WMD

Members of the Marine Corps Systems Command golf team show off the trophy they earned to Brigadier General Michael Brogan (left), Commander, Marine Corps Systems Command. The team earned second place in the Quantico intramural league. *(Photo by Bill Johnson-Miles)*

Monica Flint (25 Years)  
RM

Krista Francom (25 Years)  
CT

Rupert Futreal (25 Years)  
TRASYS

Luis Garcia (25 Years)  
TRASYS

Chief Warrant Officer 5 Jeff Ebbs (center), Headquarters Marine Corps, and Colonel Frank Kelly, Chief of Staff, Marine Corps Systems Command, congratulate Master Sergeant David Reid on his promotion at the National Museum of the Marine Corps in July. *(Photo by Bill Johnson-Miles)*



# Showcasing MARINES

## Sunset Parade honors 'uncommon valor'

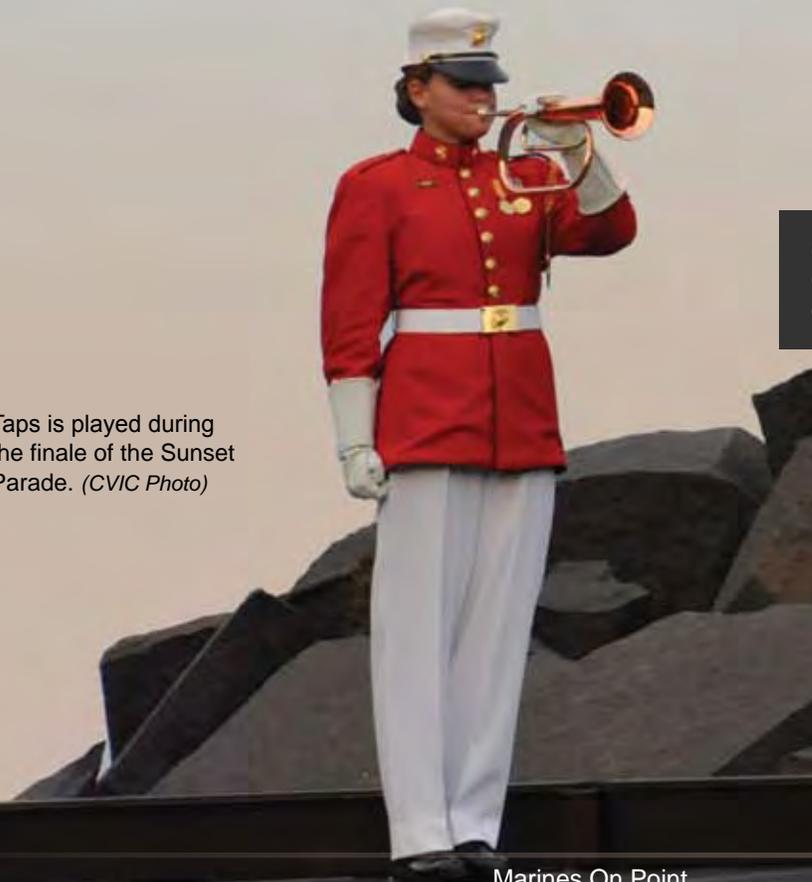
Since September 1956 Marine Corps marching and musical units have been honoring Marines each summer with weekly Sunset Parades in the shadow of the U.S. Marine Corps War Memorial, paying tribute to those whose "uncommon valor was a common virtue." This year Marine Corps Systems Command hosted the final parade of the season.

The Command used the August patriotic event to

honor Dr. Ashton Carter, Under Secretary of Defense for Acquisition, Technology and Logistics. The one-hour performance featured the music of "The Commandant's Own" U.S. Marine Drum and Bugle Corps, and precision drill by the Marine Corps Silent Drill Platoon, climaxed by a 21-gun salute and the playing of Taps.

Taps is played during the finale of the Sunset Parade. (CVIC Photo)

Guns twirl in precision as the Marine Corps Silent Drill Platoon performs during the Sunset Parade. (CVIC Photo)





Dr. Ashton Carter, Under Secretary of Defense for Acquisition, Technology and Logistics; Brigadier General Michael Brogan (center), Commander, Marine Corps Systems Command; and Colonel Andrew Smith, Commanding Officer, Marine Barracks Washington, salute as the Colors pass in review. (CVIC Photo)

Drummers of "The Commandant's Own" U.S. Marine Drum and Bugle Corps maintain rhythm during the Sunset Parade. (CVIC Photo)



Members of the Marine Corps Silent Drill Platoon have the honor of performing in the presence of the U.S. Marine Corps War Memorial. (Photo by Bill Johnson-Miles)



## MCSC and Quantico test Installation Protection Program

For hours on the warm July morning people moaned in agony and pleaded for help. With a little imagination, one could have thought these were victims of a real terrorist attack at Hospital Point, and indeed, that was the idea.

Thirty-one volunteer role players from Marine Corps Systems Command (MCSC) had taken on a morning of additional duty to help both MCSC and Marine Corps Base Quantico exercise their Chemical, Biological, Radiological and Nuclear

Installation Protection Program.

“We met our objectives to test our systems,” said Susan Jones, MCSC Security Manager. This was the largest test so far of the Command’s radio communication and shelter-in-place plans.

Jason Terry led the Quantico team that briefed the MCSC participants before the simulated aftermath of the biological agent attack. He urged everyone to be realistic and not be shy.

“You need to present symptoms that the

first responders can cue off of,” he said. “For nerve agents, it’s important to see your symptoms as appropriate. Don’t over act, but don’t under act either. This will help the firefighters in their initial assessment.”

He also warned participants that “most will go through detailed contamination, and you will get wet.” The consolation, he said, was “if this was an actual event, you would be stripped down to nothing for decontamination.”

True to his word, writhing, groaning and soak downs were the order of the day after the actors took their places and the exercise began. Base firefighters arrived with their equipment and soon hosed down everyone and everything in the MCSC Ammunition Building parking lot. The MCSC workers played their parts to the hilt, and they enjoyed their diversion.

Nevertheless, Jones said, the intent was deadly serious.

“Shelter-in-place means just that,” she said. “It doesn’t tell you what’s going on. Outside there might be a nerve agent or a chemical agent, or a terrorist shooting at people. You just don’t know.”

Making the Command aware of those possibilities – helped greatly by what Jones called 31 role players all competing for the Academy Award – somberly underlined the day’s activities.

– *By Jim Katzaman, MCSC Corporate Communications*

Trial  
✓  
Run



Volunteer Melissa Rolston-Bare, Financial Management Analyst for Information Systems and Infrastructure, recovers from a simulated leg injury during the Installation Protection Program exercise in July. (Photo by Jennifer Gonzalez)

First responders guide pseudo victims through decontamination during the Installation Protection Program exercise on the Marine Corps Systems Command campus in July. (Photo by Jennifer Gonzalez)



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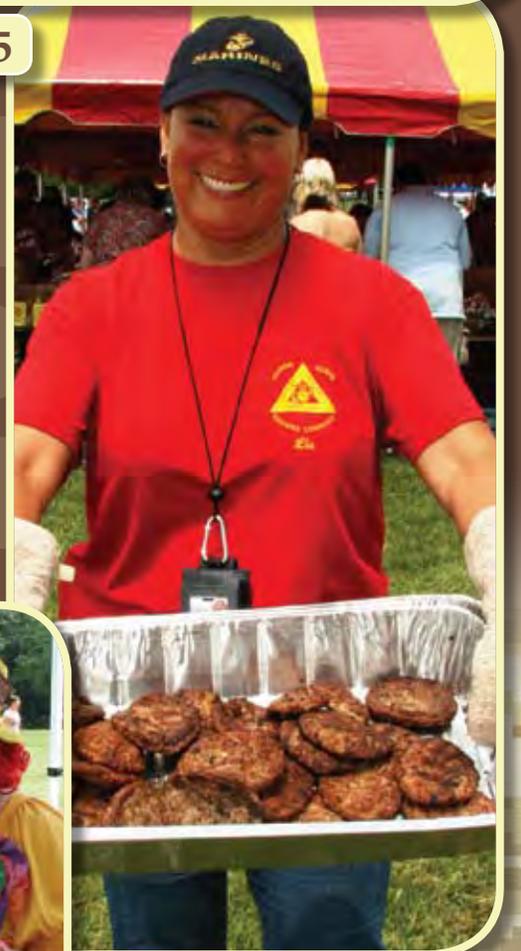
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1

Because of muddy conditions at Lunga Park, Marine Corps Systems Command (MCSC) held this year's Family Fun Day picnic on the parade deck in front of MCSC headquarters, Bldg. 2200. The rain stopped, the clouds parted and the sun shined down just in time for the beginning of the June afternoon activities. That, along with the close proximity to the workplace, brought out a huge crowd for the event.

1) Tug of war competition heats up. 2) Kids flip for the moon bounce. 3) Family members enjoy the traditional picnic fare. 4) Volleyball is always a big hit at Family Fun Day. 5) Liz Taylor of the Command Staff brings out a big tub of grilled burgers. 6) A clown entertains young family members with balloon animals and face painting. (Photos by Bill Johnson-Miles)

## A Day of Family Fun

6



# MCSC additional events

Master Sergeant Eugene Champion, Project Officer, Chemical, Biological, Radiological and Nuclear (CBRN) Sustain (Decon), explains the limitations of the M100 Sorbent Decontamination System to a mix of civilian CBRN equipment acquisition professionals and material developers, as well as others from within the Department of Defense. On this annual CBRN day in September, participants received hands-on experience, like donning gear and decontaminating an Amphibious Assault Vehicle. *(Photo by Bill Johnson-Miles)*



Brigadier General Michael Brogan (left), Commander, Marine Corps Systems Command, addresses Infantry Weapons Systems' (IWS) outgoing Product Group Director (PGD) Colonel Shawn Reinwald and incoming PGD Colonel Andrew Bianca (right) at the IWS Change of Charter Ceremony in August. *(Photo by Captain Geraldine Carey)*

Colonel Joseph Shrader (left) relieved Colonel Ed Smith as Product Group Director for Combat Equipment and Support Systems during a Change of Charter Ceremony in August. Smith retired after 27 years of service to the Marine Corps. *(Photo by Captain Geraldine Carey)*





Navy Chief Corpsman Greg Tedrick, with Marine Corps Systems Command's Family of Field Medical Equipment program, discusses combat gauze with visitors during the Sergeant Major of the Marine Corps' annual picnic in August. *(Photo by Bill Johnson-Miles)*



Lieutenant Colonel Wendell Leimbach, Marine Corps Systems Command's Program Manager for Tank Systems, speaks at the Military Armor Protection Conference in McLean, Va., in June. *(Photo by Bill Johnson-Miles)*



During the Naval Logistics Integration meeting, hosted at Quantico's Gray Research Center by Marine Corps Systems Command in August, Rick Besore of Infantry Combat Equipment (ICE) and Lieutenant Colonel A.J. Pasagian (right), ICE Program Manager, show the new Marine Corps boot to Brigadier General Robert Ruark, Assistant Deputy Commandant for Installations and Logistics (Plans). *(Photo by Bill Johnson-Miles)*

## Night fighter squadron vets recall war, see today's Marines at Quantico

# BAT EYES

U.S. forces were hopping from island to island in the Pacific, and Rodney Montgomery Jr. hopped right along with them. A pilot in the Marine Corps' VMF(N)541 Night Fighter squadron, his unit attacked Japanese forces that challenged U.S. air superiority during the final years of World War II. In one of his final air battles, Montgomery was the first Marine pilot to shoot down a Japanese fighter over the Philippines.

Now almost 86, he is the father of Rod Montgomery, Assistant Commander for Life Cycle Logistics and Lead for the Operational Support Team at Marine Corps Systems Command (MCSC). In June father and son, along with a group of VMF(N)541 veterans and their families, toured Quantico, MCSC's Gruntworks facility in Stafford, Va., and the National Museum of the Marine Corps in what might have been their final reunion.

"I don't know how these young kids can carry that big heavy load," the elder Montgomery said, marveling at the displays of equipment at Gruntworks. "They must put these kids through a muscle factory of some kind."

After taking in the Gruntworks presentations and talking with the experts, the fighter veteran said, "That was really an eye opener. I just admire the kids who can do that. My son's been telling me all these things, but it's been hard for me to picture it."

Likewise, the retired pilot has been carrying around a treasure trove of his own memories dating back some 60 years.

Marine Night Fighter Squadron VMF(N)541 – the V stands for "heavier than air," the M for "Marine" and the F for "Fighter" – was known as the Bat Eye Squadron. "We didn't have poor vision," Montgomery said. "That was because we flew at night."

Flying in the dark called for extra skills. For instance, he explained, "We were trained to recognize exhaust patterns of planes at night so we wouldn't shoot each other down."

Montgomery entered the war as a Lieutenant and traveled with the squadron to Espiritu Santo, 600 miles from Guadalcanal in August 1944. After a stop at Guadalcanal, the squadron continued to the island of Bougainville. A month and a half later, the unit flew to Emirau



Members of Marine Night Fighter Squadron VMF(N)541 pose in front of an aircraft at Cherry Point Marine Corps Air Station, N.C., in 1944. Rodney Montgomery Jr. is the flyer standing the farthest on the right. (Montgomery photo)

Rodney Montgomery Jr. inspects current Marine gear at Marine Corps Systems Command's Gruntworks facility in Stafford, Va., in June. (Photo by Sergeant Judith Willis)

Island and then to Biak Island, New Guinea.

Their first combat came during the invasion of the Peleliu Islands, only 550 statute miles east of the Philippines.

"At Peleliu," Montgomery said, "most of us had very little equipment. Some didn't have a rifle. We had to help carry litters because there weren't enough medics around. There weren't any First or Second Lieutenants left after the first day. They were just slaughtering us."

Having survived Peleliu, Montgomery and his unit joined the battle to retake the Philippines starting in December 1944. He flew almost 100 combat missions and reached celebrity status early on when he became the first Marine to shoot down a Japanese fighter.

"I had breakfast with the President of the Philippines and General Douglas MacArthur because of that," he said.

After he left the Philippines, Montgomery was sent back to Hawaii and then to San Diego in July 1945. He was heading back for the invasion of Japan when the war ended.

He left the service and went to college and graduate school. "Then the Marine Corps said they wanted me back and sent me to Korea," he said. "I went to helicopter school and was senior enough in rank to command a squadron of helicopters, HMR [Marine Helicopter Transport Squadron] 161."

Following his service in Korea and Japan, Montgomery, by then a Major, once more left the Marine Corps. He worked at IBM for 35 years before he retired in 1982. He and his wife have been married 58 years.

Both of them met with the Bad Eye Squadron veterans who toured Quantico. Wives, children and grandchildren joined the nine men who could make the trip. The Noncommissioned Officers Association presented all of them with Legacy Medallions decorated with red, white and blue ribbons to thank them for their World War II service.

Having seen Gruntworks, military police with K9s, Weapons Training Battalion, and taking a tour of the President's helicopter squadron, the group returned to their base quarters happy, tired and nostalgic. After a tour of the National Museum of the Marine Corps the next morning and a squadron dinner that night, they all went their separate ways.

"Most of us consider this our last reunion," Montgomery said. Many of the surviving squadron members are also in their 80s. Looking back on their visit to MCSC and Quantico, he added, "We had a little bit of rain, but we waited it out. It was worth it."

— By Jim Katzaman MCSC Corporate Communications

Rodney Montgomery Jr. (left) met the President of the Philippines in 1945 after being the first Marine to shoot down a Japanese fighter during the battle for the Philippines in World War II. (Montgomery photo)





## End-of-year closeouts huge success

Brigadier General Michael Brogan, Commander, Marine Corps Systems Command, congratulated and thanked everyone involved with the Command's end-of-year closeouts. "This took a huge team effort between our Resource Management and Contract people, working in conjunction with Product Group Managers, Program Managers and others," Brogan stated.

According to the Commander, MCSC was part of an outstanding Marine Corps-wide effort. Lieutenant General Duane Thiessen, Deputy Commandant for Programs and Resources, reported that "some real, hard working heroes" obligated 99.98 percent of the Corps' \$9.753 billion Operations and Maintenance authorization.

"Congratulations on a super effort," added General James Conway, Commandant of the Marine Corps. "I'd put those figures up against any in the

Department. Thanks for a job well done!"

The MCSC Commander echoed those sentiments.

"I know how hard you worked to obligate the money we were provided," Brogan said. "In these days of tight resources and greater demands from our forward-deployed Marines, we had to make especially tough, prudent decisions about how to best allocate the taxpayers' money to support the warfighter. We not only had to obligate the funds, but do so in a thoughtful responsible way. When crunch time came, you all excelled."

## Smerchansky oversees SIAT

Mr. James Smerchansky has been selected as Marine Corps Systems Command's new Deputy Commander for Systems Engineering Interoperability, Architectures, and Technology (DC SIAT). The Assistant Secretary of the Navy for Research, Development and Acquisition; the Assistant Secretary of the Navy for Manpower and Reserve Affairs; and the Assistant Commandant of the Marine Corps approved the Command's recommendation.

Smerchansky is a member of the Senior Executive Service and formerly served as the Director, Above Water Sensors, Program Executive Office, Integrated Warfare Systems. The new DC SIAT has more than 20 years of broad acquisition experience, has been involved in competency management efforts within the Naval Sea Systems



James Smerchansky  
Deputy Commander for  
Systems Engineering  
Interoperability,  
Architectures, and  
Technology

communities and has managed a workforce under the National Security Personnel System. He holds a Bachelor of Science degree in engineering from Youngstown State University and a Master of Science degree in engineering management from Old Dominion University.

## New CMO position filled by Williams

Marine Corps Systems Command's (MCSC) new Chief Management Officer (CMO) is Robert Williams. A newly created position at MCSC, the CMO serves as the Command's transformational leader for strategic change and continuous process improvement. Williams is focusing attention on improving and integrating essential management and business policies, processes and systems.

Prior to accepting the CMO position, the 30-year retired Marine Colonel served as the Product Group Director for Armor and Fire Support Systems. He has been a member of the MCSC team for more than nine years.



Robert Williams  
Chief Management Officer



At an impromptu gathering in October, Marine Corps Systems Command's (MCSC) Finance and Contract team members applaud Dr. John Burrow, MCSC Executive Director, after he passed along his and the Commander's congratulations for a job well done with the end-of-year closeouts.  
*(Photo by Bill Johnson-Miles)*

## Kelley becomes Chief of Staff

Colonel Frank Kelley is the new Chief of Staff for Marine Corps Systems Command (MCSC). His responsibilities include the supervision and direction of the Command staff, product groups and independent program managers who report to the Commander.

Originally from Philadelphia, Kelley attended the University of Notre Dame and earned a degree in aeronautical and aerospace engineering. Upon graduation, he was commissioned a Second Lieutenant in the Marine Corps.

This is the Chief of Staff's third stint with MCSC. Previously he served as the Program Manager (PM) for Unmanned Systems and PM for Training Systems (TRASYS). Prior to his assignment as PM TRASYS, Kelley served as Military Assistant to the Assistant Secretary of the Navy for Research, Development and Acquisition.



Colonel Frank Kelley  
Chief of Staff

## Smith now leads Training Systems

Colonel David Smith is Marine Corps Systems Command's (MCSC) new Program Manager (PM) for Training Systems (TRASYS), located in Orlando, Fla. His organization provides services and products to support the development and lifecycle support of the Marine Corps' training requirements. TRASYS also provides various types of training analyses, including man-

power and support of MCSC acquisition programs.

Smith graduated from Texas A&M University with a bachelor's degree in Business Management and was commissioned through the Naval Reserve Office Training Corps program. During a tour with Naval Air Systems Command, he attended the Defense Systems Management College and became a member of the Acquisition Professional Community, certified in the field of Program Management. Additionally, he earned a master's degree in business management from Florida Tech University and also completed the USAF Command and Staff College non-resident program.

Prior to reporting as PM TRASYS, Smith served as the Fleet Readiness Center East Commanding Officer at Marine Corps Air Station Cherry Point, N.C.

## Buckles takes over as PM LAV

Colonel Brian Buckles is Marine Corps Systems Command's new Program Manager (PM) for Marine Corps Light Armored Vehicles (LAV), located in Warren, Mich. He is responsible for the



Colonel David Smith  
Program Manager for Training Systems

LAV-A2 Survivability Upgrade, the Improved Thermal Sight, the LAV-C2 Upgrade, Rapid Acquisitions and Modifications and the procurement of LAV for foreign military sales. The new PM also reports to the Program

Executive Officer for Land Systems (PEO LS) for the Marine Personnel Carrier.

Buckles graduated from the University of Idaho with bachelor's degrees in cartography and geography. He also received a Master of Science degree in management (Defense Systems Analysis) from the Naval Postgraduate School.

Prior to reporting as PM LAV, Buckles served as the Director of the Amphibious Vehicle Test Branch in Camp Pendleton, Calif.

The former PM LAV, Colonel Mike Micucci, is now the PEO LS Military Deputy.

## New PGD Davis has the ISI helm

Marine Corps Systems Command's (MCSC) new Product Group Director for Information Systems and

Infrastructure is Karen Davis. A selection panel comprised of senior leadership from Headquarters Marine Corps and MCSC evaluated a pool of highly qualified applicants and recommended Davis.

"Davis is a seasoned Department of the Navy acquisition professional with more than 21 years of technical and program management experience," said



Colonel Brian Buckles  
Program Manager for Marine Corps Light Armored Vehicles



Karen Davis  
Product Group Director for  
Information Systems and  
Infrastructure

Brigadier General Michael Brogan, MCSC Commander. "I have the utmost confidence that Ms. Davis will continue to excel in her new, critical role."

Prior to her current position, Davis served as the Deputy Program Manager for the Future Aircraft Carrier Office in the Navy's Program Executive Office for Aircraft Carriers. She has also served on the staff of the Assistant Secretary of the Navy for Research, Development and Acquisition, and for more than eight years was a project engineer for Aegis Weapons and Combat Systems.

## Garner moves up to PGD AFSS

John Garner is Marine Corps Systems Command's (MCSC) new Product Group Director (PGD) for Armor and Fire Support Systems. A selection panel comprised of senior leadership from Headquarters Marine Corps, Marine Corps Combat Development Center, Program Executive Officer for Land Systems and MCSC evaluated a pool of highly qualified applicants and recommended Garner.

A retired Marine Colonel, Garner has more than eight years of acquisition experience both in and out



John Garner  
Product Group Director for Armor  
and Fire Support Systems

of uniform. Prior to his selection as a new PGD, he was MCSC's Program Manager (PM) for the Lightweight 155mm Howitzer and most recently, the PM for Expeditionary Fire Support System and Internally Transportable Vehicle.

"He is a proven performer and leader with more than 35 years of military and civilian government experience," said Brigadier General Michael Brogan, MCSC Commander. "I have the utmost confidence that he will continue to do great things in his new, critical role."

## Bianca takes charge of IWS

On From Program Manager for Infantry Weapons to Product Group Director (PGD) for Infantry Weapons Systems, Colonel Andrew Bianca was reassigned to his new position during an August Change of Charter ceremony.

The new PGD's first experience with Marine Corps Systems Command occurred in the late 1990s when he served as the M1A1 Tank Project Officer and Deputy Program Manager for Tank Systems. He has deployed to Iraq twice in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom, first as the 2nd Tank Battalion Executive Officer and later as

Operations Officer for the 2nd Marine Division.

Bianca, a native of Huntsville, Ala., was commissioned in the Marine Corps at Auburn University in 1987.



Infantry Weapons Systems' Special Purpose Equipment Team, along with two members of the FBI, show the plaques and letters of appreciation the FBI awarded the team for its assistance with the new Marine Corps Multi-Mission Parachute System the FBI adopted. (SPET photo)

## Shrader relieves Smith at CESS

In an August Change of Charter ceremony at Marine Corps Systems Command (MCSC) Headquarters, Colonel Joseph Shrader received the reins for Combat Equipment and Support Systems (CESS) from Colonel Ed Smith. Smith retired during the ceremony after 27 years of service.

Shrader, the new CESS Product Group Director, is a former enlisted Marine with 28 years of service. He holds an electrical engineering degree from Bluefield State College in West Virginia and is a graduate of the Field Artillery Officers Advance Course, Marine Corps Command and Staff College, and the Industrial College of the Armed Forces. He is also a former MCSC Deputy Program Manager for the Expeditionary Fire Support System.

## Two PGDs selected for SES positions

Two Marine Corps Systems Command (MCSC) Product Group Directors (PGD) were selected for the Senior Executive Service and have since departed the Command.

Elizabeth Sedlacek, former PGD for Information Systems and Infrastructure, is now the Deputy Executive Director

of the Secure Border Initiative within Customs and Border Protection at the Department of Homeland Security. Tom Irwin, PGD for Marine Air/Ground Task Force Command and Control Weapons and Sensors, Development and Integration, is now leading Joint Concept Development and Experimentation at U.S. Forces Command.

“Both of these individuals deserved their selection and clearly reflect the quality of leadership we have here at the Command,” said Brigadier General Michael Brogan, MCSC Commander. “I am thankful for the contributions Ms. Sedlacek and Mr. Irwin have made to our Command and the United States Marine Corps. We will greatly miss their leadership and expertise, yet I am equally gratified that they will have the opportunity to serve our Nation in their new capacities.”



Brigadier General Michael Brogan (back, center), Commander, Marine Corps Systems Command, addresses members of International Programs in their Stafford, Va., office during a visit there in July. He also visited the Ammunition team in Stafford that same day. (Photo by Bill Johnson-Miles)

## Sutton now monitors MOS 8059 billets

Major Travis Sutton is the new Military Occupational Specialty (MOS) 8059 Acquisition Professional Officer monitor at Manpower Management Officer Assignments, Headquarters Marine Corps. Sutton previously served as an Acquisition Program Manager overseeing the Mine Resistant Ambushed Protected vehicle program for Special Operations Forces. The new monitor is Level III certified in both the contracting and program management career fields. Sutton can be reached at (703) 432-9063 or by e-mail in the global directory.

MOS 8059 allows volunteer field grade officers who have been selected by a competitive, annual board to remain in acquisition billets and gain required experience for senior acquisition positions. The objective of this MOS selection process is to develop a population of Marine acquisition professional officers who meet statutory requirements and are highly competitive for selection to program management positions of major defense acquisition programs for the Marine Corps.

The 8059 Lateral Move and Acquisition Command Selection Boards meet annually in January to assess and select officers voluntarily applying for a lateral move into the acquisition MOS and to slate acquisition professional officers into acquisition command and command equivalent billets.

The boards are scheduled to take place Jan. 12-15, 2010. Check Marine Corps Administrative message 0544/09 for details. For more information, contact Richard Reager by email at richard.reager@usmc.mil.

## Open season continues until Dec. 14

The open season for federal workers to choose health, dental and vision insurance coverage for 2010 concludes Dec. 14. Contributing to a health and/or dependent care flexible spending account could save employees money by using pre-tax contributions to pay out-of-pocket costs.

Options can be reviewed for the Federal Employees Health Benefits Program, Federal Employees Dental and Vision Insurance Program, and Federal Flexible Spending Account Program. In some cases, health plan premiums have changed.

For more information, visit the Office of Personnel Management Web site at <http://www.opm.gov/insure/openseason/index.asp>.



The Combat Equipment and Support Systems' Clothing Team shows off the Marine Corps Flame Resistant Grid Fleece Shirt that earned the 2009 Polartec American Product Excellence Award. (Photo by Bill Johnson-Miles)



# Snapshots

Melinda Busansky, Finance Competency Lead in Information Systems and Infrastructure (ISI), delivers a pie to Major Ross Monta, Program Manager for Total Force Information Technology Systems, during an ISI Marine Corps Birthday Ball fundraiser in September. (Photo by Bill Johnson-Miles)

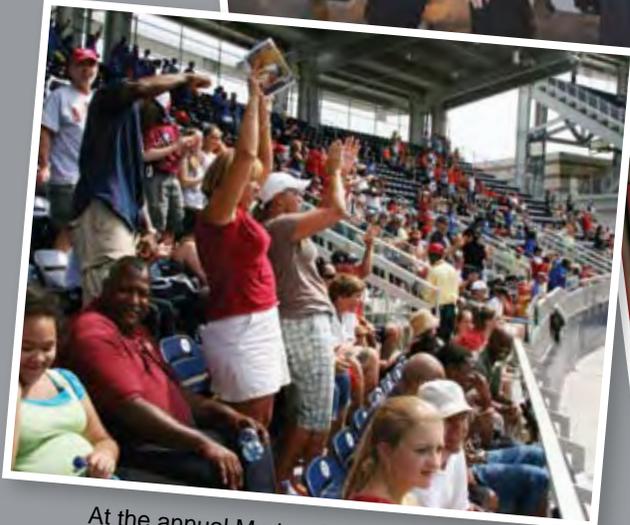


Upon his departure in August from the Mine Resistant Ambush Protected (MRAP) vehicle program, Paul Woods (right) accepts a framed photo and coins from Paul Mann, MRAP Joint Program Manager. (Photo by Bill Johnson-Miles)

During a New Join Orientation Class tour of the National Museum of the Marine Corps, two class members assist Kristin Gomez with donning and lifting a typical Marine's pack. Gomez is a new member of Marine Corps Systems Command's Acquisition Center for Support Services. (Photo by Bill Johnson-Miles)



Candy McMahon (left), Office Manager for Systems Engineering Interoperability, Architecture and Technology (SIAT), and Lorraine Updike, SIAT administration staff member, set up the baked goods table for the combined SIAT-Security Marine Corps Birthday Ball fundraiser in September. (Photo by Bill Johnson-Miles)



At the annual Marine Corps Systems Command baseball game in August, members of the MCSC team cheer as the Washington Nationals score during their win over the Florida Marlins. (Photo by Bill Johnson-Miles)

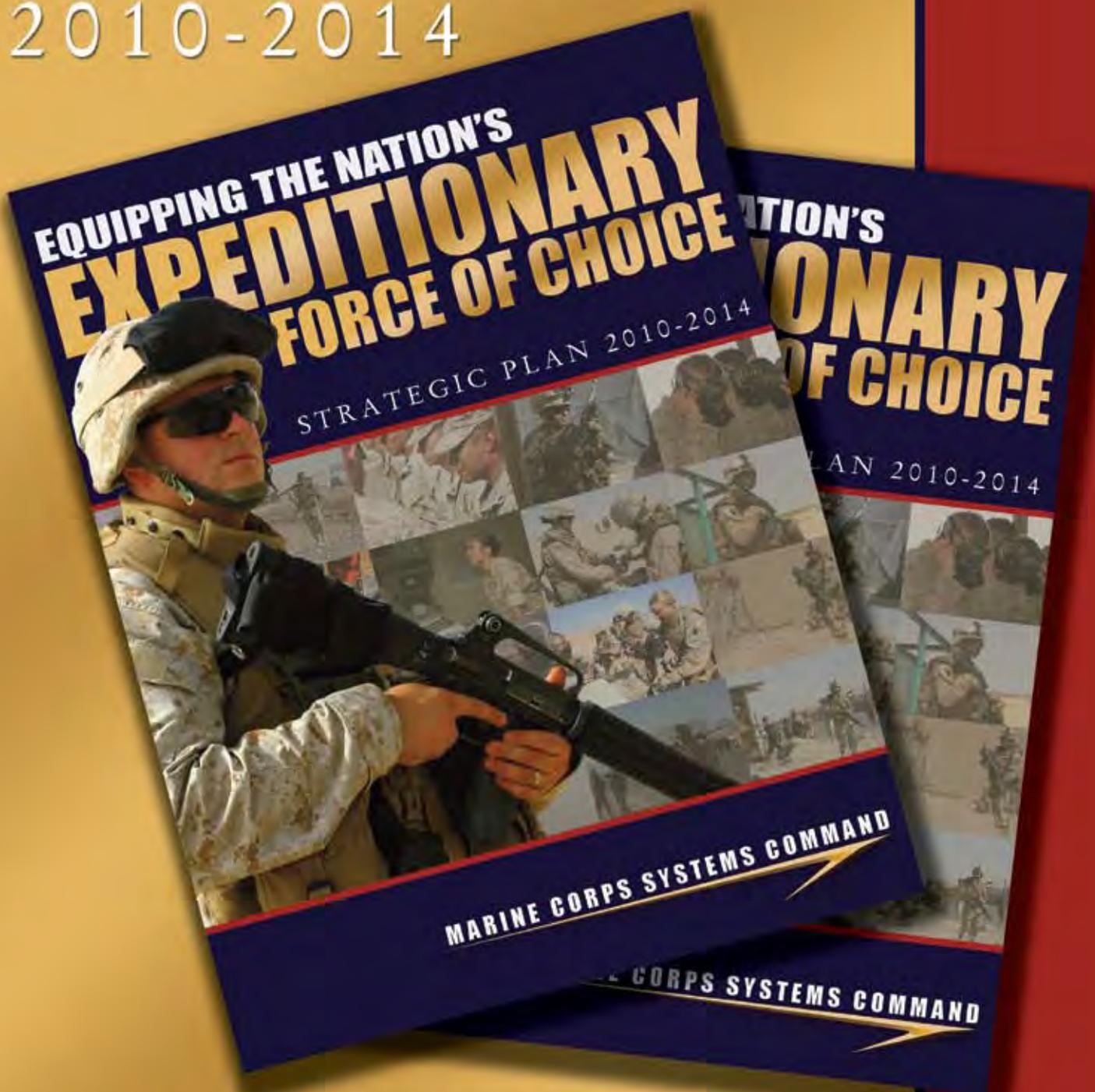


Security Manager Susan Jones is surprised on her birthday in September with a roomful of balloons. (Photo by Jim Katzaman)

*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. Please identify all people in each submitted photo and the person who took each photo as well.

# STRATEGIC PLAN

2010-2014



- **Distributed at the October Strategic Plan Town Hall**
- **Shipped to MCSC workforce locations outside the Quantico area for distribution**
- **If you did not receive your copy... Strategic Plan publications are available at the Strategic Change Management Center or Corporate Communications, both at MCSC Headquarters, Bldg. 2200**

# TOYS FOR TOTS



**U.S. MARINE CORPS RESERVE**  
**Look for drop-off boxes around the Command**