

Client Computing Solutions

The 95 percent solution; enabling command and control for tomorrow's Marine Corps today

by NH3 Fred E. Daubenspeck

A reorganized, MAGTF-oriented Marine Corps Systems Command (MCSC) does exactly that; it enables command and control (C2) for tomorrow's Marine Corps, today. This article focuses on one particular MCSC team—Client Computing Solutions (CCS)—that day in and out supports the Commandant's vision for future C2. In general, this article briefly outlines the establishment of MCSC's Portfolio Manager, Supporting Establishment Systems (PFM, SES) and Program Manager, Networks & Infrastructure (PM, N&I) and focus on the redesignated Client Computing Solutions team (formerly the Marine Corps Common Hardware Suite [MCHS] team).

MCSC—June 2017 Reorganization

In June 2017, MCSC underwent a command-wide reorganization to reflect the Marine Corps' MAGTF organizational structure and better support the Operating Forces, the Supporting Establishment, and our own MCSC Programs of Record. As part of that reorganization, the PFM, SES was established, with several subordinate program managers (PMs), to include PM, N&I. Under the guidance and direction of PM, N&I, there are several teams that procure and provide information technology hardware, software, and related capabilities in support of the Supporting Establishment—the “fifth element” of the MAGTF. CCS is one of those PM, N&I teams. Why is it important to highlight the CCS team? Because the CCS team directly impacts every Marine and civilian in the Ma-

>NH3 Daubenspeck is Portfolio Manager, Supporting Establishment Systems, Program Manager, Networks & Infrastructure (PM, N&I), Client Computing Solutions Team Lead, MCSC.

CCS Mission Statement

“Ensure provision of common end-user devices, when needed—with standard Enterprise operating system configurations—for employment on the MCEN, in order to provide common computing services.”

“Marines around the globe, both in garrison and forward deployed, require a networked C2 [command and control] environment that is ready, responsive, and resilient. Our ability to C2 in these dynamic times remains the focus. We must strive to build C2 agility and enhance our readiness throughout the Marine Corps. Maintaining a secure, adaptable, and innovative C2 environment ensures we preserve a decisive advantage over our adversaries.”

**—Gen Robert B. Neller,
Strategy for Assured Command and Control:
Enabling C2 for Tomorrow's Marine Corps, Today.**

YOUR LEGACY. THEIR FUTURE.

A small effort on your part can make a big difference to our mission of supporting Today's Marines.

Including the Marine Corps Association Foundation in your will is a small step that won't make a difference in your lifestyle today, but will leave a lasting impact on Marines in the future.



For more information visit:
www.mca-marines.org/legacy-gift-planning



rine Corps who operates on the Marine Corps Enterprise Network (MCEN), both in garrison and while deployed. The CCS Team does this by procuring common end-user devices (EUDs) [the “95 percent solution”], such as computer workstations, laptops, or rugged laptops for use on both MCEN-N and MCEN-S (the unclassified and secret enclaves of the MCEN respectively). As our Marine Corps’ C2 capability has become network based, it is the common EUD solution—procured by the CCS Team—that allows access to that network.

As the redesignated CCS Team, CCS has taken on additional roles and responsibilities. Not only does it procure EUDs for use on the MCEN, it has also taken on several other significant C2-enabling responsibilities. CCS now creates the Marine Corps Enterprise Desktop Standardization (MCEDS) image that is loaded onto EUDs, ensuring a standard enterprise operating system. It also manages an enterprise shipping and warehousing facility responsible for receiving, quality-checking, and further distributing vendor-delivered EUDs. It provides life-cycle sustainment and refreshment for procured EUDs; most recently, it has added enterprise mobile computing to its essential mission task list.

MCHS History

As the predecessor to CCS, the former MCHS was established in 1993 in support of MAGTF command, control, communications, computers, and intelligence (C4I) integration. It was then considered part of the backbone of the MAGTF C4I concept. MCHS was established to provide contract vehicles to procure common computer systems. Initially it was intended to support MCSC program of record primarily, but it soon took on the responsibility of supporting the Operating Forces end-user computer equipment requirements. As early as 1998, MCHS developed and implemented a computer hardware buyers’ guide to be used on the Internet—creating a process to ensure the latest in personal computer technology was available for the entire Marine Corps to purchase.

In 2010, MCHS provided information technology hardware in support of Operation ENDURING FREEDOM/Operation IRAQI FREEDOM, standing up the I MEF Forward Combat Operations Center in Bahrain and providing network hardware to improve in-theater infrastructure.

CCS

Today, CCS is making great strides to improve on the MCHS legacy of support to the Operating Forces, Supporting Establishment, and MCSC programs of record. Moving forward in 2019 and beyond, as CCS charts its course for the future, it has big plans for improving its processes and product offerings. Those plans include the better use of established, government-wide information technology acquisition contracts such as the National Aeronautics and Space Administration Solutions for Enterprise-Wide Procurement and the U.S. Army’s Computer Hardware Enterprise Software and Solutions; providing enhanced lifecycle sustainment for its products; and refreshing MCEN-N and MCEN-S computer assets on a four-year/25 percent refresh cycle. CCS’s mobility team will also work to establish a validated enterprise mobile computing requirement and an authorized acquisition objective.

As well, CCS is in the process of re-engineering its website to provide a “stakeholder facing” website that will be a one-stop shop for pertinent CCS, EUD baseline, and MCEDS image version information. The website is Common Access Card protected, and you must have a MCEITS account to access it.

This is an aggressive plan, but one that the CCS team is committed to. In addition, CCS also has plans to begin making semi-annual “consolidated buys” to leverage bulk pricing schemes and to expedite purchasing and delivery of EUD assets.

>Editor’s Note: The CCS website is located at <https://mcscoiper.usmc.mil/sites/mcnispilcs/default.aspx>.

