



7 June 2021

**A MESSAGE FROM THE SERGEANT MAJOR
MARINE CORPS SYSTEMS COMMAND**

Since joining Marine Corps Systems Command (MCSC) one year ago, the learning curve has been steep yet incredibly rewarding. Where else can a Marine interact with industry and work alongside the multidisciplinary acquisition professionals charged with providing capabilities to our FMF? It has been eye-opening to see the acquisition process and learn the details that go into equipping our Marines—from transforming requirements into fielded capabilities, to conducting new equipment training, and to providing on-demand support to our warfighters. The individual Marine truly is at the center of everything we do.

On a recent MCSC roadshow to I MEF, we provided the FMF with an overview of acquisition and our programs. During our talk, we started discussing requirements—the foundation behind all our programs. A Marine then asked, “What *is* a requirement?” The Marine understood the urgent and deliberate needs statement(s) but was unaware how that needs statement turned into a written requirement to produce a capability. Keeping it simple, we described the requirement as a “work ticket,” based on a need from the FMF, which is established and validated by Combat Development Directorate and then handed to MCSC to fulfill. Our acquisition professionals then take this “work ticket” and collaborate with industry to find, develop, and field an effective and affordable solution to fulfill the required need. Once the Marine understood this, the conversation took a turn toward new equipment training (NET).

The Marines and acquisitions professionals at MCSC have been executing NET across the FMF throughout the COVID-19 pandemic. The MCSC team develops, sets the standard, and certifies Marines on equipment and systems fielded to the FMF. As capabilities continue to be upgraded and fielded, our NET teams travel around the globe to conduct NET events to ensure Marines remain capable, ready, and lethal. Taking full advantage of Adobe Connect and other digital platforms, the NET teams executed over 2,800 online training events during the pandemic. During NET, we “train the trainers,” enabling Marines to certify other Marines on new equipment and systems, providing increased readiness and lethality to the unit.

Once the new systems and equipment are fielded and Marines are trained to use them, we are standing by 24/7 to support the warfighter. Marine Corps Tactical Systems Support Activity (MCTSSA) has an established Warfighter Support Division (WSD) that is operationally focused to support tactical C2 systems. The WSD has a 24/7 global support center designed to assist our warfighters across five geographic locations, troubleshoot systems, and provide expert technical assistance in order to quickly get them back in the fight. Additionally, WSD provides direct support to Training and Education Command, harnessing 50 years of C2 knowledge to help organizations like MAGTF Training Command, Tactical Training Exercise Control Group, and the Schools of Infantry develop new skillsets and create tech-savvy personnel. The technical experts at MCTSSA are currently actively engaged in system integration efforts for Project OVERMATCH and Project CONVERGENCE. If you are a Marine in need of C2 assistance, you can get tactical system support 24/7 by calling (760)725-0533 or visiting <https://hcs.usmc.mil/sites/mctssa>.

The acquisition professionals at MCSC are dedicated to meeting the needs of the FMF, whether it is fulfilling requirements, training the FMF on newly-fielded capabilities, or providing expert technical support to the warfighter. We welcome the feedback and encourage Marines to call our MCSC program offices, just as they would M&RA about fitness reports or their own S-1 for awards. If you have an idea to improve a system or process, contact us on our Equipment Feedback Portal, at <https://mceits.usmc.mil/sites/MCTSSA/innovation/Pages/Equipment-Feedback-Portal.aspx>.

The acquisition professionals at MCSC are here for one reason: to better equip our Marines so we can continue to be the Nation’s 9-11 Force-in-Readiness.

Proud of Who We Are and What We Do!

Semper Fi,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "M. Cato, Sr." with a stylized flourish at the end.

Mike Cato, Sr.
Sergeant Major, U.S. Marine Corps
Marine Corps Systems Command