

### IN THIS ISSUE

A Message from the PEO...  
Page 2

Gen. Dennis Via  
sends thank you note  
to PEO STRI...  
Page 3

Gen. Mark Milley  
Assumes Role as  
Army Chief of Staff...  
Page 5

PEO STRI Hosts  
ITE Industry Day...  
Page 6

STRI Employees Reach  
Personal Milestones...  
Page 11

### WORTH REPEATING

“As your chief of staff, I will ensure we remain ready as the world's premier combat force. Readiness to fight and win - ground combat is and will remain the U.S. Army's No. 1 priority. And there will be no other No. 1. We will always be ready to fight today, and we will always prepare to fight tomorrow.”

~ Gen. Mark A. Milley  
comments after taking  
the oath as the U.S.  
Army's 39th Chief of Staff

# Army Materiel Command's Leader Visits Orlando, Shares Thoughts on Future Challenges

By Rick Gregory, PEO STRI Strategic Communications Support Staff



U.S. Army Photo

Gen. Dennis L. Via (left), commanding general, U.S. Army Materiel Command, receives a briefing on August 27 from Lt. Col. Christopher Todd, product manager, Medical Simulations, while Col. Dan Irizarry (right), Clinical advisor, Joint Programs Office, looks on.

Gen. Dennis L. Via, commanding general of the U.S. Army Materiel Command (AMC), visited U.S. Army units located in Orlando's Research Park on August 27 to get updated on their specific missions and current challenges and to learn how AMC can improve support to them.

The general oversees a 65,000-person workforce in the command that is the U.S. Army's premier provider of materiel readiness. Their motto sums it up: "If a Soldier shoots it, drives it, flies it, wears it, communicates with it, or eats it, AMC produces and provides it."

His daylong visit included briefings by Maj. Gen. Jon Maddux, program executive officer, and his team at the Program Executive Office for Simulation,

Training and Instrumentation (PEO STRI) as well as leaders from two units within the AMC command structure, Army Contracting Command (ACC)-Orlando and the U.S. Army Simulation and Training Technology Center (STTC).

He also had an opportunity for hands-on demonstrations on some of the most current training aids, devices, simulators and simulations being fielded to Soldiers around the globe. They included medical simulations, Games for Training, aerial targets and the Multiple Integrated Laser Engagement System, among others.

During the morning briefings held at PEO STRI's headquarters, Via shared his thoughts on the challenges the total Army faces, especially with the

A MESSAGE FROM THE  
**PROGRAM EXECUTIVE OFFICER**



**MG JON MADDUX**

**“EVERY MEMBER  
OF PEO STRI  
SHOULD FEEL A  
GREAT DEAL OF  
PRIDE IN THE  
MISSION WE  
ACCOMPLISH.  
IT IS  
ACKNOWLEDGED  
AT THE HIGHEST  
LEVEL OF  
ARMY COMMAND.**

— MG Jon Maddux

**To The PEO STRI Workforce,**

As the program executive officer, I have the privilege of routinely visiting our Soldiers and their leaders in the field to find out first-hand how the training products we field help them prepare for their next mission and what improvements we can make to increase the realism and fidelity of those products.

It is always a satisfying feeling to observe those training products having a very positive impact on their mission rehearsals during larger exercises as well as honing their skills at the individual or squad levels at their home stations.

As an example, I traveled to South Korea recently with some of PEO STRI's senior leaders to observe Ulchi-Freedom Guardian, an annual training exercise that involves more than 10 allied countries in the North Atlantic Treaty Organization. Training products fielded by PEO STRI played a major role in ensuring the success of the exercise that was watched closely by the North Korean government. As the article on page 7 of this newsletter points out, thanks in large part to our involvement, it was a tremendous success.

As well, the article on page 4 relates how a unit deployed to Kuwait received invaluable training using the Medical Simulation Training Center (MSTC) that is fielded by our Product Manager Medical Simulation team. I have witnessed Soldiers being trained on the MSTC and I can attest that it is the most realistic training they can experience prior to treating our wounded Soldiers on the battlefield.

Our distinguished visitors also leave with a firm understanding of our mission and our dedication to accomplishing the tasks at hand. As you will read on the front page, Gen. Dennis Via, commanding general of the Army Materiel Command visited us recently. He expressed his appreciation for us hosting him by sending the message printed on page 3.

Every member of PEO STRI should feel a great deal of pride in the mission we accomplish. It is acknowledged at the highest level of Army command. Gen. Mark Milley, the new Army Chief of Staff, told the audience at last year's Interservice/Industry Training, Simulation and Education Conference, "Your efforts in supporting military training and operations allow us to sustain the competitive advantage over any potential opponent."

On behalf of Army leadership around the globe, thank you for your continued dedication to the mission at hand.

Regards from your Program Executive Officer,



**DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY**  
HEADQUARTERS UNITED STATES ARMY MATERIEL COMMAND  
4400 MARTIN ROAD, REDSTONE ARSENAL, ALABAMA 35898  
August 31, 2015

Major General Jonathan A. Maddux  
Program Executive Officer  
Simulation, Training and Instrumentation  
12350 Research Parkway  
Orlando, Florida 32826

Dear General Maddux:

I want to thank you for the outstanding Simulation, Training, and Instrumentation overview during my recent trip to Orlando. The Army, Academia, and Industry collaborative approach taken when training our Soldiers is evident. You and your team did a tremendous job providing me with invaluable insights.

Thank you again for your superior support in making my visit such an overwhelming success.

Army Strong!

*Thank you for a productive visit!*

Sincerely,

Dennis L. Via  
General, U.S. Army  
Commanding

# Deployed Unit Finds High Value in Using PEO STRI-Fielded Medical Simulation Training Center

By Staff Sgt. Grady Jones, 3rd Armored Brigade Combat Team Public Affairs Office, 4th Infantry Division

The first few minutes following a combat injury can be the most important. Having faith in the abilities of a battle buddy to make the right decisions to care for the injured until a medic arrives can mean the difference between life and death.

Recently deployed Soldiers from 4th Squadron, 10th Cavalry Regiment, 3rd Armored Brigade Combat Team, 4th Infantry Division, worked on these skills during Combat Lifesaver (CLS) course validation June 15-17, 2015, at the Medical Simulation Training Center on Camp Buehring, Kuwait.

The “Buffalo Soldier” Battalion deployed from Fort Carson over the past two months to join the rest of its brigade and begin its mission of promoting security and stability in the Southwest Asia region.

First aid training is an essential individual task for Soldiers.

**“THIS TRAINING ENSURES OUR SOLDIERS ARE PROFICIENT IN CLS AND THAT THEY ARE CONFIDENT AND COMPETENT TO TAKE CARE OF EACH OTHER ON THE BATTLEFIELD. THE ENVIRONMENT IN REAL COMBAT SCENARIOS CAN GET REALLY CHAOTIC. THIS TRAINING HELPS DEVELOP THE SOLDIERS’ ABILITY TO REMAIN CALM IN A STRESSFUL ENVIRONMENT AND TO MAKE SOUND AND POTENTIALLY LIFESAVING DECISIONS.”**

**- JEROHAM MORALES,  
STAFF SERGEANT, COMBAT MEDIC,  
TROOP C, 4TH SQDN., 10TH CAV. REG**

“This training ensures our Soldiers are proficient in CLS and that they are confident and competent to take care of each other on the battlefield,” said Staff Sgt. Jeroham Morales, combat medic, Troop C, 4th Sqdn., 10th Cav. Reg.

The training was conducted in a dimly lit area with strobe lights and intense interaction with health care specialists who graded the trainees.

“The environment in real combat scenarios can get really chaotic,” said Morales. “This training helps develop the Soldiers’ ability to remain calm in a stressful environment and to make sound and potentially lifesaving decisions.”

Special training aids increased the realism of the event, said Spc. Randy Saukkola, combat medic, Headquarters and Headquarters Troop, 4th Sqdn., 10th Cav. Reg., who was an instructor and grader for the event.

“The medical training manikins simulate breathing and bleeding,” Saukkola said. “It’s as close to treating a real casualty as possible.”

First responder training is a combat multiplier, Morales said.

“As a combat arms Soldier, I am glad I get the opportunity to train on first aid because it is a skill that could be useful in combat,” said Spc. Ibrahim Diallo, indirect fire infantryman, Troop C, 4th Sqdn., 10th Cav. Reg. “It allows us a better chance at saving our battle buddies in combat.”

Diallo expressed confidence in his unit’s medical personnel.

“The instructors are very knowledgeable and professional,” Diallo said. “They all have lots of experience in medical treatment and seem to enjoy passing their knowledge on to us.”

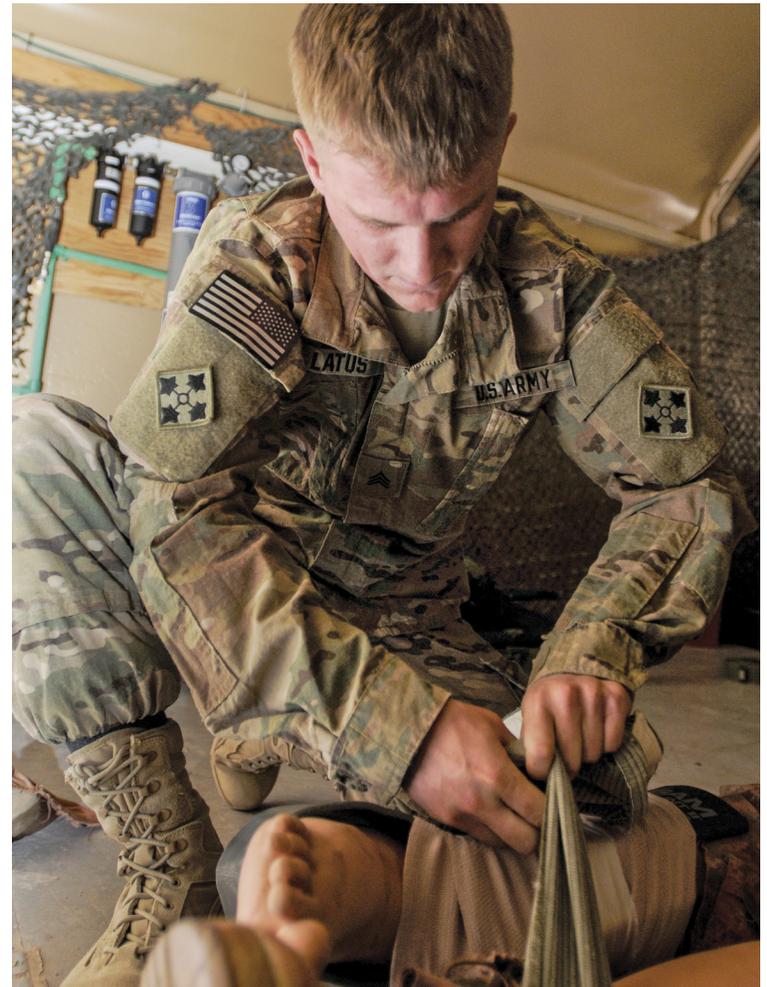


Photo by Staff Sgt. Grady Jones

Sgt. Aaron Latus, cavalry scout, Troop C, 4th Squadron, 10th Cavalry Regiment, 3rd Armored Brigade Combat Team, 4th Infantry Division, performs lifesaving measures on a medical training manikin during a Combat Lifesaver Certification course at the Camp Buehring, Kuwait, Medical Simulation Training Center June 15, 2015.



# Wars Fought by Ground Troops, New Army Chief Says

By C. Todd Lopez, Army News Service

Continued freedom in America requires a continued commitment to maintaining strong, equipped, well-led and well-trained ground forces, said the Army's 39th Chief of Staff Gen. Mark A. Milley.

"There are many who think wars only can be won from great distances – from space, the air, the sea. Unfortunately, those views are very, very wrong," Milley said.

Milley spoke immediately following his oath as the new chief, assuming responsibilities from Gen. Ray Odierno, who retired during the same ceremony Friday morning on Joint Base Myer-Henderson Hall, Virginia.

"War is an act of politics, where one side tries to impose its political will on the other," Milley said. "And politics is all about people. And people live on the ground. We may wish it were otherwise. But it is not. Wars are ultimately decided on the ground, where people live, and it is on the ground where the U.S. Army, the U.S. Marine Corps and the U.S. Special Operations forces must never, ever fail."

The general warned that flagging commitment to maintaining ground forces will have a devastating cost, in terms of lives and freedom.

"If we do not maintain our commitment to remain strong, in the air, on the sea, and yes, on the ground, we will pay the butcher's bill in blood, and we will forever lose the precious gift of our freedom," he said. "As your chief of staff, I will ensure we remain ready as the world's premier combat force. Readiness to fight and win – ground combat is and will remain the U.S. Army's No. 1 priority. And there will be no other No. 1. We will always be ready to fight today, and we will always prepare to fight tomorrow."

Milley most recently served as commander of U.S. Army Forces Command on Fort Bragg, North Carolina, before replacing Odierno, who served as chief of staff for nearly four years and retired after having served 39 years in the Army.

Defense Secretary Ash Carter told those at the change-of-responsibility ceremony that he has great confidence in Milley's ability to lead the Army into an uncertain future.

"He's the right officer to lead the Army over the next four years, to shape our force, to continue restoring its readiness, to get there quickly and to win – as our nation expects of its Army. Mark is a leader, a warrior, and a statesman," Carter said.

**"AS YOUR CHIEF OF STAFF, I WILL ENSURE WE REMAIN READY AS THE WORLD'S PREMIER COMBAT FORCE. READINESS TO FIGHT AND WIN – GROUND COMBAT IS AND WILL REMAIN THE U.S. ARMY'S NO. 1 PRIORITY. WE WILL ALWAYS BE READY TO FIGHT TODAY, AND WE WILL ALWAYS PREPARE TO FIGHT TOMORROW."**

**- GEN. MARK A. MILLEY,  
ARMY CHIEF OF STAFF**

The secretary said he has had personal visibility of Milley's command ability. In 2013, he said, the two were together on the day that Taliban fighters attacked the U.S. consulate in Herat, Afghanistan.

"As we flew there, I saw him take decisive command of the scene," Carter said. "In addition to decades of such operational experience, Mark clearly also has the strategic vision needed to build on what Ray started. I have confidence – I know he'll succeed, because he carries that same unyielding commitment to Army, to Soldier, and to family."

Milley's new boss, McHugh, said he's seen Milley lead Soldiers both at home and overseas, as well as at FORSCOM.

"At all times he's lead with distinction, in both war and peace," McHugh said. "He's a remarkable leader, and I'm confident he'll be an exceptional chief of staff of the Army and member of the Joint Chiefs."

Dempsey said that going forward, the Army will be smaller and different than what it has been in the past. But the Army will still do what the nation asks it to do, and to do that, Soldiers must be well-trained, well-led and well-equipped.

"You are an inspired choice to lead our Army into the future and you are going to be terrific," Dempsey said.



U.S. Army Photo

Newly sworn in Army Chief of Staff Gen. Mark A. Milley addresses attendees at the Army change-of-responsibility ceremony on Summerall Field, Joint Base Myer-Henderson Hall, August 14, 2015.

# PEO STRI Conducts Industry Day To Discuss Future Training Needs

By Rick Gregory, PEO STRI Strategic Communications Support Staff

When more than 184 industry and academia representatives, from more than 125 organizations, attended the first Synthetic Training Environment (STE) Technology and Industry Day hosted by the Program Executive Office for Simulation, Training and Instrumentation (PEO STRI) in Orlando on September 1 and 2, the key message they heard was – “We need your input.”

The two-day event was centered on discussions about evolving STE which will converge virtual, constructive and gaming environments with augmented reality into a single synthetic environment that, when linked with live training, will increase the realism of training exercises while reducing the dependency on brick and mortar training sites.

Leading off the event was Maj. Gen. Jon Maddux, PEO STRI’s program executive officer, who thanked the participants for attending and explained why this event and future ones would be held.

“The intent today is to get you educated on where we stand with the STE and the path forward as we work with requirements, science and technology (S&T) and the acquisition process over time,” he said. “We certainly plan on giving you more and more information as we bring along the S&T within a collaborative environment between academia, the U.S. government and, most importantly, our industry partners.”

He stressed the importance of the Army moving to a STE and the collaborative role they will play in ensuring it is successful.

“As we look at our training portfolio, this is the center of gravity for our future to ensure our leaders can operate effectively, in fact thrive, in an environment of chaos and ambiguity. That is the intent of this system,” he said. “I solicit your input and look forward to your engagements with us.”

Brig. Gen. Mark O’Neill, deputy commanding general, Combined Arms



U.S. Army Photo

**Attendees at the Synthetic Training Environment (STE) Technology and Industry Days held September 1 and 2, listen to Brig. Gen. Mark O’Neill, deputy commanding general, Combined Arms Center, Training at Fort Leavenworth, Kan., as he addresses them via video teleconferencing.**

Center, Training at Fort Leavenworth, Kan., who addressed the audience via video teleconferencing, also stressed the importance of collaboration in building the STE.

“As the Army transitions to the STE, we look to you, our industry partners, to help form and discover affordable leap-ahead technologies to expand the Army capability to meet the Army training and education needs for the Force 2025 and beyond,” he said.

“We need industry’s help in focusing our own science and technology efforts towards successfully providing effective training solutions,” he told the audience. “We need your help. We need your ideas, your innovations and your breakthrough technology to make the training environment of the future more

realistic, more complex and more ambiguous to train and challenge our future Soldiers and leaders.

“Army readiness is the number one priority as the world’s premier combat force. We will always be ready to fight today, prepare to fight tomorrow and we must never send our Soldiers into harm’s way untrained. We must evolve our training environment to meet this challenge.”

Joining his boss at Fort Leavenworth, Col. Craig Unrath, who is dual-hatted as the National Simulation Center Director and the Training and Doctrine Command Capability Manager, Integrated Training Environment, used a bit of history to share his thoughts on the development of the STE.

*continued on page 10*



# PM ITE Plays Major Role In South Korea's Annual Training Exercise

By Rick Gregory, PEO STRI Strategic Communications Support Staff

When Kim Jong-un, North Korea's leader, recently threatened armed retaliation for joint military exercises being held on the southern side of the Korean Demilitarized Zone (DMZ), PEO STRI had a hand in raising his ire.

What the irate Kim saw from August 16 - 27 was more than 50,000 South Korean troops along with more than 30,000 U.S. and other United Nations military personnel participating in an annual computer-simulation exercise called Ulchi-Freedom Guardian.

What the upset North Korean leader didn't see was that, through PEO STRI's fielded constructive simulations products, more than 120 million additional elements were in the exercise by way of simulated military personnel, civilians and equipment.

They included simulated enemy and friendly forces on simulated terrain, allowing commanders and their staffs to train in a realistic wartime environment that included

maneuvers, logistics, intelligence, air defense and artillery.

"The Joint Land Component Constructive Training Capability (JLCCTC) was the computer simulation supporting this event along with Warfighters' Simulation (WARSIM) which is the maneuver model and the backbone of JLCCTC," explained Brian Orloff, a project director with PM ITE.

He added that the training exercise is considered the 'Super Bowl' for constructive simulations as there is no other exercise that stresses the system to the extent Ulchi-Freedom Guardian does.

Jude Shea, the director of the Seoul, South Korea-based Korea Battle Simulation Center that conducts the exercise, had high praise for the results of the event.

"From the modeling and simulation standpoint, Ulchi-Freedom Guardian 15 was an unqualified success," he said. "Overall availability of the models (supplied by

JLCCTC and WARSIM) was 99.5 percent. That is quite an achievement given the scope and complexity of the exercise.

"This stellar performance made the simulation transparent to the training audience, allowing them to focus on the exercise scenario and improving the training benefit."

Maj. Gen. Jon Maddux, PEO STRI's program executive officer, visited South Korea, along with other leaders within the organization, to get a first-hand look at how JLCCTC and WARSIM performed during the exercise.

"I was very pleased to see how well these systems performed during this very important joint exercise that prepares our Soldiers to be ready to fight tonight should the need to defend South Korea arise," Maddux said. "When you have a nearly 100 percent availability of the simulation aspect of Ulchi-Freedom Guardian you just can't ask for a better result."



Photo by Pak, Chin-u, 2nd Infantry Division/ROK-US Combined Div.

Maj. Gen. Jon Maddux, PEO STRI's program executive officer, greets Maj. Gen. Ted Martin, commanding general, 2nd Infantry Division (2ID) during an office visit with the 2ID leader while in South Korea to observe the Ulchi-Freedom Guardian training exercise.

# Flight Simulators Provide Invaluable Training to Fort Drum Pilots

By Melody Everly, Fort Drum

From the time Army pilots begin flight school until the day they end their careers in aviation, many will have logged thousands of hours in flight time. These individuals will be called upon to use their expertise to support missions both stateside and downrange.

The aircraft they man provide vital supplies, carry wounded Soldiers to safety and provide protection for their battle buddies both in the air and on the ground, allowing them to complete their missions.

Although a great deal of their training happens in the air, there is another vital asset on the ground that allows pilots to prepare for any situation - standard or emergency - that they may encounter in their line of duty: flight simulators.

In 2005, Fort Drum's flight simulator facility received its first piece of training equipment — a full-motion UH-60 simulator. Jeff Guler, a retired Black Hawk pilot and now chief of the flight simulator facility, has been there since the beginning.

First hired as a contractor, Guler was with the facility as staffing transitioned to Department of Army civilian jobs. He witnessed the addition of five new training simulators, all of which have greatly enhanced the 10th Combat Aviation Brigade's ability to train their pilots.

Before the addition of the facility on Fort Drum, simulated training opportunities for pilots were few and far between, with Soldiers having to travel in order to receive this training, he said.

"The pilots would drive to Fort Indiantown Gap, Pennsylvania, to attend training periods," Guler said. "By having simulators at Fort Drum, aviators do not need to travel."

Not only does the Army save money in travel expenses for these aviators, it also saves fuel, resources and aircraft maintenance, he said.

One example is the AH-64 Longbow Crew Trainer, or LCT.

"The pilots are able to use the LCT simulator to perfect their gunnery tables before they get into the aircraft to fire actual rounds," Guler said. "Having the ability to cost-effectively train Soldiers in a realistic virtual world without putting equipment or Soldiers at risk is extremely beneficial in the age of budget cuts and Army downsizing."

In 2006, two new flight simulator training instructor/operators, Ken Erb and Tim McDougall, were added to the staff. Both instructors are former Black Hawk pilots, who retired on Fort Drum and wanted to continue serving the Army by supporting aviators.

"There is nothing like the camaraderie of the military, and this job helps to maintain



U.S. Army Photo

**Flight simulator training instructor/operator Ken Erb looks on as a pilot trains inside the AH-64 Apache Longbow Crew Trainer. The pilot is completing a gunnery exercise using a multipurpose display and selecting the right combination of weapons to be used during a simulated exercise.**

that sense of work relation," McDougall said. "I wanted to apply the skills, knowledge and abilities that I had acquired in the military to continue to serve my country."

Another goal that all three instructors expressed was to share their knowledge, learned during multiple deployments, overseas tours and duty stations, with the next generation of aviators.

"Each pilot learns from other pilots' experiences," Erb said. "In the simulator, we can pass on our knowledge and experiences as pilots. Giving back the knowledge I gained makes it enjoyable coming to work every day."

Some of the training scenarios that pilots go through, including local area orientation, are quite basic, Guler said.

"This allows them to get accustomed to the range entry and exit procedures," he said. "They will also learn the procedures and regulations for flying at Fort Drum."

Aside from training scenarios that familiarize aviators with Fort Drum itself, there are also many basic tasks that young pilots must learn before they can move on to more advanced maneuvers, McDougall said.

"Startups, shutdowns, basic task flight instruction and instrument flights are at the core of our training for this level of pilot experience," he said.

After working through these procedures, both in the simulator and in the air, aviators are ready to engage in more complex scenarios.

"[This includes] tactical missions where threat is introduced into the scenario and pilots must evade the threat, engage or be shot down," McDougall said. "They need to use terrain to mask the helicopter and utilize the aircraft survivability equipment installed on the aircraft to defeat the threat and complete the mission."

Chief Warrant Officer 3 Michael Kicklighter and Chief Warrant Officer 2 Josh Baker, having recently completed a training segment, spoke about how the simulator and UH-60 aircraft share many of the same attributes.

"They are very similar," Kicklighter said. "With the Instrument Flight Rule Training, they are identical. This is when we are in the clouds and can't see outside. Training for a situation like this in the simulator means we are more comfortable doing this in the air."

Pilots also must be prepared for emergencies that they may encounter, and the simulators

*continued on page 9*



allow them to practice these scenarios, such as a maneuver known as auto-rotation, in a safe learning environment.

“That is a situation where we train for what to do if we lose both engines,” Kicklighter said. “In the simulator, they can actually ‘fail’ the components and we auto-rotate to the ground. We are preparing for something that we obviously hope never happens.”

Baker said that, although stressful, practicing emergency procedures is an extremely important part of learning to become a great pilot.

“It is stressful, but that’s a good thing,” he said. “When you’re in the simulator, you get the lights and the audio. When a light turns on, you have to think - ‘OK, what am I going to do?’ You go through the steps and figure out how you would proceed if that ever happened in real life.”

Meanwhile, the flight simulator instructors sit behind the pilots, both controlling the computerized system and talking them through the process, based upon their own experience.

“The instructors all have enormous amounts of experience,” Kicklighter said. “We may miss things and they will point them out. It gets us thinking ‘yeah, I could have done that.’ Their knowledge is extremely helpful.”

“I would say that most everyone would agree with me: after this training there is nothing that would happen in the aircraft that we aren’t prepared for,” Baker said.

The simulator also allows pilots to practice maneuvers that cannot be replicated in the air, Erb said.

“You can’t turn off the hydraulic system in the actual aircraft,” he said. “When we turn off the hydraulics in the simulator, it initially confuses the pilots. We cover what to do with them and go over that training so that they understand what they are looking at and how to diagnose and handle the situation. When they go into the actual aircraft - if they have a real emergency - they’ll think ‘I’ve done this before in the simulator’ and they will know how to react.”

The instructors said that the most fulfilling aspect of their job was watching the pilots they trained continue to learn and grow into skilled aviators.

“We want them to feel they are prepared to complete any air mission that may be handed to them and that they are able to respond to any emergency they may encounter with confidence so that the aircraft and aircrew return safely,” Guler said.

# PEO STRI Proudly Celebrates and Honors the Contributions and Achievements of Hispanic Americans

There are roughly 54 million Hispanics living in the United States, making them the country’s largest ethnic minority.

In September 1968, Congress authorized President Lyndon B. Johnson to proclaim National Hispanic Heritage Week, observed during the week that included Sept. 15 and Sept. 16. Congress expanded the observance in 1989 to a month long celebration (Sept. 15 - Oct. 15) of the culture and traditions of those who trace their roots to Spain, Mexico and the Spanish-speaking nations of Central

America, South America and the Caribbean.

The beginning of Hispanic Heritage Month coincides with the independence day for five Latin American countries: Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, and Nicaragua. The month extends into October because Columbus Day is observed on October 12, which is celebrated as the “discovery” of the American continent by Europeans. This year’s theme is *“Hispanic Americans: Energizing our Nation’s Diversity.”*

**HISPANIC HERITAGE MONTH**  
ENERGIZING OUR NATION'S DIVERSITY

15 September - 15 October

- MARIO MOLINA** - Nobel Prize-winning Chemist
- FRANKLIN CHANG-DIAZ** - Astronaut, Scientist
- ROBERTO CLEMENTE** - First Hispanic to be inducted into the Baseball Hall of Fame
- BILL RICHARDSON** - Former Governor of New Mexico
- HENRY CISNEROS** - Former Secretary of Housing and Urban Development
- LUIS SANTEIRO** - Nationally Acclaimed writer
- NANCY LOPEZ** - 4-time LPGA Player of the Year and Hall of Famer
- SONIA SOTOMAYOR** - U.S. Supreme Court Judge
- CESAR ESTRADA CHAVEZ** - Labor Leader
- ANTONIA COELLO NOVELLO** - Former Surgeon General
- RITA MORENO** - Singer, Dancer, Actress
- NYDIA VELÁZQUEZ** - First Puerto Rican woman elected to Congress; (D) New York
- JOAN BAEZ** - American folk singer and political activist

PEO STRI

ongoing reduction in funds and troop strength brought about by the ongoing sequestration.

“Sequestration dominates the conversation wherever I go,” Via said. “Everyone is experiencing the challenges created by having more requirements than we have funding or people.”

He said the reality is that leaders throughout the Army have to prioritize what needs to be done and optimize with the resources they have to accomplish the mission.

“We have to focus on our core missions to weather this storm and make the right decisions and investments that ensure they translate to the kind of Army we will have 10, 20 or 30 years down the road.”

Via also shared his concerns about the Army being able to meet the needs of the Soldiers in a current process that often lags years behind the quickly evolving technology in today’s world.

“We must change our processes to keep up with technology,” the general said. “We can’t take six years to go through the process and then, sometimes, not field anything. Our Soldiers don’t understand why it takes so long to get them what they need.”

**“WE MUST CHANGE OUR PROCESSES TO KEEP UP WITH TECHNOLOGY. OUR SOLDIERS DON’T UNDERSTAND WHY IT TAKES SO LONG TO GET THEM WHAT THEY NEED.”**

**- GEN. DENNIS L. VIA,  
U.S. ARMY MATERIEL COMMAND**

One way Via suggested for speeding up the processing time is by not trying to reach perfection each time.

“We don’t always have to wait until we have the perfect solution so every Soldier can have it,” he said. “Sometimes we can develop the products for a small group to get it in their hands more quickly and then upgrade it as we go forward.”

After a late working lunch and roundtable discussions with ACC-Orlando and STTC leaders, the AMC commander returned to his headquarters in Redstone Arsenal, Alabama where his team accounts for 70 percent of the Army’s contract dollars.



*U.S. Army photo*

**Maj. Gen. Jon Maddux, PEO STRI's program executive officer, provides the opening remarks at the Synthetic Training Environment (STE) Technology and Industry Days held September 1 and 2.**

“If Henry Ford, the founder of the Ford Motor Company, had to ask the American people what they wanted, they would have said a faster horse,” Unrath said. “Well, the STE is not going to be a faster horse. The STE, as we envision, is the automobile. We need to think differently; we need to start over; we need to use the knowledge we learned from the integrated training environment and leverage industry for commercial solutions.”

PEO STRI’s Col. Ron Gaddy, project manager Integrated Training Environment, also extolled the importance of industry and academia involvement, but pointed out the explicit need for moving to the synthetic training environment.

“We need to replicate the complexities of the operational environment. I haven’t seen the mayor of any major city allowing some Army unit to come and train in a couple of their city blocks,” he explained. “When most of the world’s population is in the mega cities, where do you think the fight is going to be in the future? How do we train to that? How do we replicate that environment?”

Gaddy emphasized that the ultimate goal of the STE is to not fail the warfighter by ensuring it is the right product fielded to them.

“We aren’t going to rush to failure. We are going to have tactical patience,” he stressed. “We aren’t looking at dictating what the process is. If there is a better way of doing things, we are looking for all input. We want to set this up so it fosters an environment where we can all work together and come up with common goals.”

During the second day of the event, the attendees were able to meet one-on-one with representatives from the Army Simulation Training and Technology Center, Army Contracting Center-Orlando, MITRE and the Project Manager Integrated Training Environment. The 20-minute sessions gave industry and academia participants the opportunity to ask questions and share any concerns they may have.

The attendees provided positive feedback to the event planners, stating that it both cleared up questions they had had as well and having a better understanding of the way forward for STE.

PEO STRI plans on hosting future STE Industry Days in the future.

*Inside STRI* is an authorized publication for military and civilian members of the U.S. Army Program Executive Office for Simulation, Training and Instrumentation, Orlando, Fla. 32826. *Inside STRI* is published under the authority of AR 360-1 and applies the Associated Press Stylebook industry standard. Contents of *Inside STRI* are not necessarily the official views of, or endorsed by, the U.S. Government, Department of Defense, Department of the Army, or PEO STRI. Editorial material for publication should be submitted to PEO STRI Public Affairs Office, 12350 Research Parkway, Orlando, Fla. 32826. The PAO reserves the right to edit all material submitted for publication. For more information about PEO STRI or to view *Inside STRI* online, visit our website at [www.peostri.army.mil](http://www.peostri.army.mil)  
EDITOR: Kristen Dooley McCullough, Editor-in-Chief [[kristen.a.mccullough.civ@mail.mil](mailto:kristen.a.mccullough.civ@mail.mil)] • DESIGN: MSB Analytics, Inc. [[usarmy.orlando.peo-stri.list.cggraphics@mail.mil](mailto:usarmy.orlando.peo-stri.list.cggraphics@mail.mil)]

# 40 YEARS

## PEO STRI EMPLOYEES REACH MILESTONE CAREER SERVICE MARKS

During the September Town Hall, Maj. Gen. Jon Maddux, program executive officer, presented certificates to PEO STRI employees who have reached the 25 years or higher career service mark.



• VIDAL ACEVEDO •  
PM ITE



**30**  
YEARS | JOHN MINGS  
Field Ops



**30**  
YEARS | JOHN GOETZ  
Field Ops



**30**  
YEARS | DAVE GROW  
PM ITTS



**30**  
YEARS | SHELLIA FORD BATTLES  
PM ITTS



**25**  
YEARS | LINDA CLIPP  
PM ITTS



**25**  
YEARS | RANDY EDNEY  
Office of Small Business



**25**  
YEARS | FELIX MARRERO  
ACC-Orlando

# STRI IN FOCUS



U.S. Army Photo

Gary Stevenson, PM ITTS, was named the Employee of the Quarter for the third quarter of fiscal year 2015 at the September town hall meeting.



U.S. Army Photo

Maj. Gen. Jon Maddux, program executive officer, presents the certificate of promotion to newly promoted Maj. Jeffrey Fullmer, an attorney-advisor, during a ceremony held in Partnership III on August 6.

Sgt. Maj. Alan Higgs, senior enlisted advisor (left) and Maj. Gen. Jon Maddux, program executive officer (third from right), pose with PM ITE's 1st Army Division East Multi-Echelon Integrated Brigade Information Assurance Support Team after they presented the Team of the Quarter for the third quarter of fiscal year 2015 to them at the September town hall meeting. PM ITE members, from left, are Craig Thornley, Carmen Colon, Jim Newkirk, Kirk Thomas, Mike Wanklyn and Jeffrey Co. Team members not pictured are Graham Fleener, Chris Jackson, Thomas Payne and Kevin Sherman.



U.S. Army Photo

Maj. Gen. Jon Maddux, program executive officer, presents Dan Santiago, Field Operations, a Commander's Award for Civilian Service during the September town hall meeting for his support of U.S. Army Central during operation Spartan Shield.



Department of Defense Photo

Stephen Welby, deputy assistant to the Secretary of Defense for Systems Engineering (left) presents a Department of Defense Value Engineering Achievement Award to PM TRADE's James Todd while Col. Jon Buonerba, Army Materiel Command, looks on during a ceremony at the Pentagon recently. The award acknowledges outstanding achievements and encourages additional projects to improve government and contractor productivity.



U.S. Army Photo

Maj. Gen. Jon Maddux, program executive officer, presents Melissa Sistare, PM TRADE, a Commander's Award for Civilian Service during the September town hall meeting for her service while deployed to Afghanistan in support of Operation Freedom's Sentinel.