

INSIDE ^{PEO} STRI

DECEMBER 2011

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WORTH REPEATING

“I've always been drawn to the military because its very foundation is based on the concept of sacrifice and putting the lives of others above your own. At the end of my life, will my successes be measured by the amount of money I have in the bank or the size of my house? Or will it be measured by the positive influence I had on the people around me?”

— **Capt. Angela Chipman, Female Engagement Team Leader with 2nd Battalion, 8th Field Artillery, Forward Operating Base Masum Ghar, Afghanistan**



U.S. Army Photo/Doug Schaub

Spc. Bradley Collings (right) speaks about his experiences in Afghanistan, while Sgt. Dustin Snowdy looks on, during the Warfighters' Corner presentations.

WARFIGHTERS SHARE THEIR THOUGHTS ON PEO STRI TRAINING DEVICES

By Rick Gregory, APEO Business Operations Support Staff

Staff Sgt. William Bowman, who has logged more than 32 combined months fighting the bad guys in Iraq, said he wasn't sure about the effectiveness of using simulation for training Warfighters, but one particular device turned his opinion upside down.

Speaking at a session of the Warfighters' Corner event during the recent Interservice/Industry Training, Simulation and Education Conference (I/ITSEC), Bowman said his experience on the HMMWV Egress Assistance Trainer (HEAT) gave him a new appreciation for simulation.

"Before I went in the training device, I was pretty skeptical," he recalled. "As soon as I got out, I was a believer. When you get turned upside down in a vehicle it is pretty difficult to figure out where you

are inside that vehicle so you can get out quickly. The HEAT and MRAP Egress Trainer both provide excellent training on how to survive a rollover. You can't do that type of training in a real vehicle."

Bowman, who is currently assigned to the Maneuver Center of Excellence at Fort Benning, Ga., also has high praise for other training devices fielded by PEO STRI.

"In preparation for deployment, we had to qualify on the Advanced Gunnery Training System (AGTS) before going to tank gunnery. The AGTS is a really good, cost-effective system. Personally, I wish training devices like the AGTS were accessible every day at company level," he said. "They would be great when we have any down time. When there are times that you are just in a sit around and wait mode,

I could grab my squad and go into the trainer to keep our skills sharp."

After praising other systems like the Close Combat Tactical Trainer and Virtual Battlespace 2, he offered a recommendation of what he would like to see the simulation industry produce.

"Our young Soldiers have a very difficult time learning how to judge distance and that's critical on the battlefield," he said. "If we could ever get into a 3-D training environment on most of our simulators where you could actually see depth, that would be amazing."

For Sgt. Dustin Snowdy, who served as a medic in both Iraq and Afghanistan, determining depth wasn't critical for his mission success, but dealing with the trauma of combat injuries on the battlefield

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A Message from the PEO

To my PEO STRI family,

On Christmas Eve of 1776, General George Washington, the commander-in-chief of the Continental Army, met with his war council in Buckingham, Pa., to solidify what he hoped would be the turning point in America's War for Independence—crossing the Delaware River in the dead of winter, culminating in a surprise attack on the British forces. The future of this newly-declared Nation rested solely on the mission's successful outcome.

Overcoming the challenges seemed nearly insurmountable. Many of Gen. Washington's troops were sick, hungry, poorly clothed and suffering through one of the coldest winters on record. Greatly outnumbered and reaching the limits of human endurance, the American Army was no match for the professional British Army, warmly dwelling across the river in Trenton, N.J. Gen. Washington knew, however, that their complacency and lowered guards gave rise to opportunity.

Within 24 hours, at midnight on Dec. 25, 1776, Washington executed the crossing of the Delaware, and the rest is history; Washington's "brilliant stroke" tipped the scales in the Revolutionary War.

And ever since that Christmas of 1776, American men and women in uniform have spent many Christmases on battlefields across the globe... in Europe, Africa, throughout the Pacific, on the Korean Peninsula and in Vietnam, and from Kuwait to Iraq and Afghanistan.

This season, we gather with our families and friends in a Nation free to celebrate in the custom of our choosing, by whatever name or tradition it is known, thanks to the long and unbroken line of patriots whose courage and sacrifice continue to secure the blessings of freedom and liberty upon our grateful Nation.

Throughout the year, and especially during the holiday season, I ask that you keep our deployed Soldiers in your thoughts and prayers. They are proof that the dedication, professionalism and operational excellence of our Army are unparalleled.

Sharon and I extend our most heartfelt holiday greetings to each one of you and your families. This season is a special time in the Blake household, a chance to spend extra time with family and friends, reflect on the past year and anticipate the opportunities that lie ahead.

On behalf of Sharon and I, and the entire leadership team, you have our sincerest appreciation for your dedicated service and our warmest wishes for a joyous holiday season and a prosperous 2012.

Dr. James T. Blake
Program Executive Officer

PM CATT Soldier Honored by Local Hispanic Chamber of Commerce

By Rick Gregory, APEO Business Operations Support Staff

Lt. Col. Wilson Ariza, assistant project manager for medical simulation in PM CATT, was recently honored by the Hispanic Chamber of Commerce of Metro Orlando and the Hispanic Business Initiative Fund as a finalist in the annual Don Quixote Awards.

The Don Quixote Awards, according to the website, “were created to recognize and celebrate the entrepreneurial spirit of individuals who have shown character of great strength, courage, conviction and determination, just as the beloved character of Spanish literature.”

More than 100 nominations were received for the six award categories. After a seven-step selection process, Ariza was one of three finalists in the Excellence Award category that recognizes Hispanic individuals whose contributions have elevated the face of the Hispanic community. To be nominated, award finalists need to have shown evidence of significant innovations and contributions to the Central Florida community, demonstrated leadership and community involvement and received significant honors or awards.

Ariza, along with his wife, Nitza, are certainly no strangers to not only the local Hispanic community, but also those communities where his Army assignments have taken them.

In 1995, the couple implemented a youth group in conjunction with the city of San Antonio and Fort Sam Houston. Called “La Salida” (The Way Out), the program focused on children living in economically depressed areas and exposed to gangs and gang-recruitment



Photo courtesy of the Hispanic Chamber of Commerce of Metro Orlando

Lt. Col. Wilson Ariza holds the finalist award he received at the Don Quixote Award ceremony. The award was presented by Ramon Ojeda (left), president of the Hispanic Chamber of Commerce of Metro Orlando, and Augusto Sanabria, president and CEO of the Hispanic Business Initiative Fund.

efforts. Activities included achieving physical challenges, like repelling and navigating rope bridges, and learning about living a drug-free, gang-free and education-oriented life.

“For many of the children, the program offered these children the opportunity to eat three meals a day for the first time in their lives,” Ariza said.

Believing that leadership and mentoring within youth groups is an investment in a better world, Ariza has initiated seven youth groups where none previously existed. The first group, which he started while attending church in Gaithersburg, Md., has grown to more than 100 members. He has also worked at churches to help immigrants of all nationalities complete the paperwork required by the U.S. Citizenship and

Immigration Services or to start a new business.

While providing community service at his local church, he, along with four other individuals statewide, was appointed as a liaison for the local Hispanic community. The community outreach committee has the responsibility of helping address the needs of a growing Hispanic community in the Central Florida area.

Ariza and his wife are also involved in an 18-month project for the International Baccalaureate Program at Seminole High School in Sanford. Created by Mrs. Ariza, the “Dare To Care” program supports Florida service members and their families during their deployment.

Besides being acknowledged

for making a positive impact in the civilian communities, Ariza has also garnered many awards and decorations throughout his 22 year military career.

Among the many awards, he joined such luminaries as Neil Armstrong, Elizabeth Dole and Daniel Patrick Moynihan when he was selected to receive the Arthur S. Fleming Award which is bestowed on outstanding federal employees who are recognized by the President of the United States.

His military awards include the Defense Meritorious Service Medal, Army Meritorious Service Medal, two each of the Joint Service Achievement Medal, Army Commendation Medal, Army Achievement Medal and NATO Medal and others.



U.S. Army Photo/Shelley Kaufeld

Noe Santos, a wounded Warrior, and Jose Garcia-Aponte of PEO STRI PM CATT begin the 5K portion of the charitable event.

Warrior Run Makes Great Strides

By Rick Gregory, APEO Business Operations Support Staff

While most members of the PEO STRI workforce were nestled snug in their beds while visions of sugarplums danced in their heads in the early morning hours of Dec. 3, a spirited group of 121 employees and their family members were hitting the downtown pavement to participate in the Orlando Utilities Commission (OUC) half-marathon/5K charitable run. Though the annual run benefits the Florida Citrus Sports Foundation, a portion of the proceeds, approximately \$5,000, donated

by the PEO STRI runners went to help make holiday dreams come true for children who have lost their parents in the Iraq and Afghanistan conflicts. A special thank you goes out to all PEO STRI members who ran, walked, volunteered or donated to this special cause. The runners and walkers were Katherine Amaya, Elizabet Atilas-Ayala, Joseph Bladow, Maj. Mark Bliss, KeYanna Boone, Cindy Brandl, Mark Brzezinski, Lt. Col. William Canaley, Thomas Coffman, Anna Crossway, Rayvan Davis Sr., Maj.

Robert DeGaine, Valerie Deneen, Sgt. 1st Class Tracy Drowne, Neal Eskin, William Eubanks, Lt. Col. Mark Evans, Fran Fierko, Col. Mike Flanagan, Maj. Cassandra Forrester, Jose Garcia-Aponte, John Geisinger, Joe Giunta, Bridgette Graham, Lawrence Green, Lt. Col. Richard Haggerty, Eric Hertl, Steven Horvath, Gary Jeffers, William Jensen, Donald Johnson, Traci Jones, Randi Kahl, Marcia Kain, Ray Karnaz, Maj. Thomas Kelley, Allison Laera, Lisa Lehneke, Kaitlin Lockett, Mike

Marone, Russ McBride, Holley McNeely, Rhonda Meyers, David Meyers, Thomas Monaghan, Maj. Sabrina Moore, Sgt. Maj. Pat Ogden, Rachel Overman, Lovisa Parks, Frances Purser, Lt. Col. Craig Ravenell, Frank Rhinesmith, Robert Rowland, Shaun Schneider, Michael Sims, Jerry Sirmans, Lt. Col. Keith Smith, Molly Stoute, Kim Tedeschi, Ken Tedeschi, Lt. Col. Scott Tufts, Maj. Ralph Ware, Louise Williams, Cpt. Brian Williams, Lt. Col. Charles Worshim and Col. Mike Zarbo.



was.

"One of the biggest things we saw downrange was the psychological impact on new medics when they got their first casualties," he explained. "We had everything from Soldiers freezing up to others getting sick and not being able to cope with the trauma. They needed to have gone through a simulated battlefield situation where they experienced the realistic feel, smell and sights of actual trauma."

Snowdy feels the Medical Simulation Training Centers (MSTC) go a long way in preparing medics for just that.

"The realistic training that we do in the MSTC helps get these Soldiers in the frame of mind that they will need to treat those casualties on the real battlefield," he said. "I can't express how important that is as a medic. To be able to actually see the injury and live that experience in training is what I believe is vital to the success of performing downrange."

"There is a certain mindset that you have to have when treating a patient," Snowdy continued. "Every medic has to be in a mindset that says 'Hey, I'm not God. I can't save every patient I come across.' MSTC, in my mind, helps us mentally prepare for the worst case scenario

where we are going to see a patient who could be one of our buddies who we can't save."

Spc. Bradley Collings, a medic who served a tour in Afghanistan, experienced the worst case scenario shortly after arriving in country.

"The first thing I saw trauma-wise was when an Afghan soldier stepped on an improvised explosive device," Collings recalled. "It basically pulverized him. He flew up in the air with body pieces going everywhere."

Though he had only three months of train-up time before deploying with his unit, he did get to gain experience in the MSTC twice and he credits that with preparing him for the harsh medical realities of war.

"At the MSTC you get the sights, the smells and the adrenaline rush," he explained. "The experience of going in the MSTC and treating a simulated casualty who was breathing, bleeding and moving coupled with the simulated chaos of the sounds of battle helped a lot. When you have that experience in the MSTC, you start to build that confidence inside yourself that you know you can help your buddy live and go home to his family. That, in itself, helped me not freeze up in the instant when the casualty was a real person in front of me and not a



Photo courtesy of U.S. Army Photo/Doug Schaub

Staff Sgt. William Bowman briefs the Warfighters' Corner attendees on the pre-deployment training he received prior to deploying to Iraq.

rubber person."

While Collings lauds the MSTC, there are two improvements he would like to see implemented for future medics training for deployment.

"I would like to train on a non-tethered mannequin that bleeds and breathes like the tethered ones," he said. "In training you could treat him on the spot where he got hit and continue treating him until you either bring him back to the aid station or put him on a helicopter for evacuation. That would be great training!"

A simulation device that would help combat medics identify traumatic brain injuries would also

be helpful, Collings said.

"Brain injury is one of the main injuries we are seeing in the war," he explained. "I would like to see the development of a traumatic brain injury simulator that shows you the difference in the dilation of the pupils and the other types of symptoms of brain injury that you will see on the battlefield as a medic. We need something that will show us the early warning signs."

The theme for I/ITSEC this year was "Prepare The Force, Secure The Future." All of the Warfighters who spoke during I/ITSEC provided testament of how PEO STRI training devices are indeed preparing the force.

New Law Will Expedite Soldiers Through Airport Security

By Army News Service

A bill signed into law by the president Jan. 3 means Soldiers in uniform and their families may soon have an easier time moving through security screening lines at the airport.

The "Risk-Based Security Screening for Members of the Armed Forces Act" calls for development of a plan that will provide "expedited security screening services for a member of the armed forces and, to the extent possible, any accompanying family member."

Included in that law are instructions

to consider establishing standards for screening of military uniform items, including combat boots.

Only service members on orders and in uniform will be granted access to any expedited security screening procedures that have been developed, officials said.

The new law calls for changes to be implemented within six months.

Transportation Security Administration officials say the agency is now "in consultation with DoD," and "is reviewing options for

implementing procedures that will adhere to the new law."

Already, the TSA had policies in place that help expedite the movement of uniformed service members through the security screening process. Soldiers with proper identification are not required to remove their boots or shoes unless the footwear sets off screening equipment.

Families of service members can obtain gate passes to go with service members to their departure gates to see them off, or to be standing at

arrival gates when they get off the plane.

Additionally, the TSA has worked with DoD to make it easier for injured service members to negotiate the screening process. The Military Severely Injured Joint Services Operations Center Program ensures that any screening is "conducted by TSA screening experts with empathy and respect in order to make the overall experience for the service member as expeditious and pleasant as possible."



2011 Holiday Celebrations Across the PEO





Student-Intern Honored with Army Award during UCF Engineering Class

Information for the article was provided by UCF News & Information

PEO STRI engineering intern Steven Horvath's career is on the fast track, and he's got a medal to prove it.

PM TRADE Col. Mike Flanagan, UCF President John C. Hitt, Provost Tony Waldrop and a classroom full of engineering students were present Wednesday, Nov. 16, at Horvath's surprise award presentation, where he was given the Achievement Medal for Civilian Service.

Horvath is the first student intern to receive this award in PEO STRI.

Horvath worked for PEO STRI for 18 months, serving as an assistant engineer and aiding the office in a variety of respects.

"For a while, I didn't even realize Steven was a student," Flanagan said. "I thought he was a seasoned engineer."

The in-class surprise award ceremony lasted for just a few minutes, but Horvath said it was extremely impactful.

Professor Faissal Mosley asked Horvath and his fellow engineering students to remain in the classroom mid-lecture, as very important guests were to arrive.

"Once I saw Col. Flanagan come in, I thought that maybe this had something to do with me," Horvath said, referring to the moment when a hush rippled through the classroom as his PEO STRI superiors, Hitt and Waldrop entered the room. "I've never received anything like this before, so it's an honor to be so young and have this award."

During the ceremony, Col. Flanagan listed off reasons for Horvath's professional excellence and presented him



Photo courtesy of U.S. Army Photo/Doug Schaub

Col. Mike Flanagan presents Steven Horvath with the Achievement Medal for Civilian Service while UCF President John C. Hitt looks on Nov. 16 during Horvath's engineering class.

with a medal and certificate.

Horvath said that he attributes his personal success to his willingness to help others at his job and through his close relationship with his mentor.

"My experience in a trained, professional environment has been great for my future job," Horvath said.

Flanagan said that Horvath has worked on a variety of projects for PEO STRI, the most notable being a workshop that brought together members of industry and government to demonstrate the significance of "cloud computing" in the training of U.S. Soldiers.

Other contributions Horvath has made to PEO STRI

during his time as an intern include performing onsite test engineering support for a wireless range data communication system and conducting a study on energy reduction techniques for a Moving Armor Target — a robotic moving target used for a variety of gunnery training applications.

Horvath also co-authored a paper titled "Next Generation of Distributed Training Utilizing SOA, Cloud Computing, and Virtualization" which he presented at the 2011 Interservice/Industry Training, Simulation and Education Conference.

Jeremy Lanman, who has

served as Horvath's task-lead and mentor at PEO STRI, said that the award presented to the intern is a great honor and will remain on his permanent record as long as he remains a federal employee.

After graduating with his bachelor's in mechanical engineering this December, Horvath will be working as a nuclear systems crew trainer for the U.S. Navy in Charleston, S.C. He will primarily be responsible for instructing Navy personnel on how to operate nuclear submarines.

"I know he'll do really well up there," Lanman said. "He's got a can-do attitude, and all around he's been the perfect employee."



PM TRADE Team Honored at I/ITSEC for Live Training Software Product Line

By Rick Gregory, APEO Business Operations Support Staff

While members of Congress have been wringing their hands trying to find ways to save the U.S. government money, a team from PEO STRI's PM TRADE has earned an award for a product line that will realize an estimated \$350 million in cost avoidance across the military services.

The PM TRADE team took top honors for Outstanding Achievement in Modeling and Simulation in the Acquisition Category of the 2011 National Training and Simulation Association award ceremony during the Interservice/Industry Training, Simulation and Education Conference held recently in Orlando.

Called Live Training Transformation (LT2), the product line provides state-of-the-art training systems to the Warfighter by using common reusable software components, architectural infrastructure, interfaces, standards, processes and assets. By making the product line a "one size fits all" in commonality and reusability, it has proven to significantly reduce costs for the Army and other military services.

"The continuing transformation has generated a significant return-on-investment within PM TRADE's live training system acquisition portfolio by generating an estimated \$350 million in cost avoidance for the Army across development and sustainment," said Tom Coffman, assistant project manager with PM TRADE.

The Marine Corps also realized significant savings using the LT2 product line when developing its Instrumented



Photo courtesy of NTSA

Fred Lewis, president of NTSA (right), presents the Outstanding Achievement in Modeling and Simulation in the Acquisition Category award to Tom Coffman and Col. Mike Flanagan of PM TRADE.

Training System (ITS), Coffman noted. Using 87 percent of LT2's product line software, the Corps not only saved \$11 million in development and acquisition costs, but also completed the project seven years sooner than originally planned.

Additionally, when the Air Force looked at developing a Counter Improvised Explosive Device After Action Review System, they turned to the Army's LT2 product line.

With very little development investment, the Air Force was able to quickly field seven training systems to meet their IED training needs to support deploying Air Force personnel at four bases.

The LT2 product line architecture, standards, assets and environment have been used by more than 16 major Army and Department of Defense live training programs with more than 130 systems fielded. It is

recognized as the Army's live training standard.

The LT2 team is comprised of Marie Bittikofer, Tom Coffman, Mark Dasher, Michael Dillon, Graham Fleener, Michelle Fox, Michelle Garcia Gomez, Danielle Genaro, Steven Horvath, Thomas Kehr, Brian Kemper, Dr. Jeremy Lanman, Andrea Morhack, Tuan Nguyen, Angela Pritchard, Eric Ravelo, Patrick Sincebaugh, Jim Styerwalt, James Todd and Derek Vick.



BOO Takes First Place in Golf Tourney for Seventh Straight Year

By Kristen McCullough, Public Affairs Officer



Photo courtesy of www.findthebest.com

PEO STRI employees and their family members play at Eastwood Golf Club in Orlando, Fla., Dec. 26 for the PEO STRI Team Golf Championship.

Droves of PEO STRI folks headed out to the links the day after Christmas to vie for the PEO STRI Team Golf Championship trophy, yet the match can hardly be considered a competition. The BOO team won yet again for the seventh consecutive year.

BOO team members, Mr. Rob Reyenga, Ken Wheeler, Walt Pezzolo and Scott Gray, took first place, however their winning status provided them

only a boost of pride. The same goes for the second place team from the CSG made up of Jim Godwin, Dusty Woodlee, Don Schlomer and Steve Goldberg. The third place team—and perhaps the most bountiful winner gaining 12 Org Day points—was PM ConSim finishing with the lowest PM-shop score of 65.5 strokes.

Teams from the Acquisition Center, PM Field OPS, PM ITTS and PM TRADE also

participated in the 50-person golf outing at Eastwood Golf Club. PM CATT did not put together a team, and therefore

did not earn Org Day points. Let's hope they can make it up April 13 at Red Bug Lake Park.

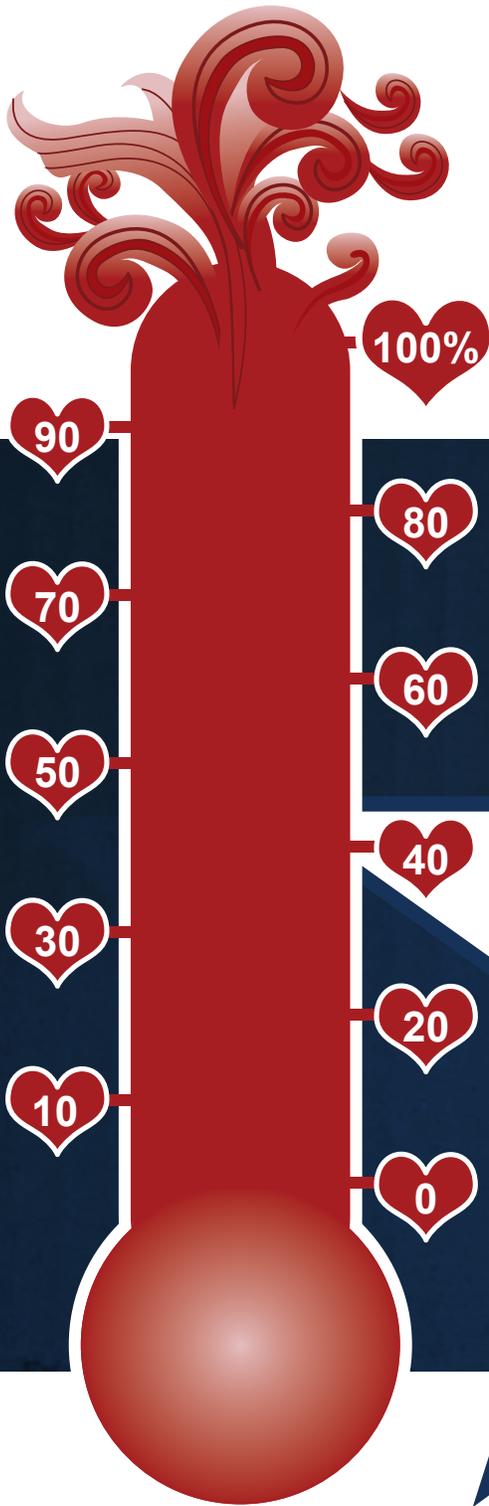
Org Day Points Earned

PM	POINTS	NET SCORE
PM Con Sim	12	65.5
Acq. Center	10	66.5
PM Field OPS	8	66.75
PM ITTS	6	67.75
PM TRADE	4	69.25
PM CATT	0	DNS



PEO STRI

EXCEEDS CFC GOALS!



GOAL: \$75,000
RAISED: \$102,000+



The generosity of the PEO STRI team helped the organization top its 2011 goal for the Combined Federal Campaign (CFC). CFC is the world's largest and most successful annual workplace charity campaign, with more than 200 CFC movements throughout the country and internationally to help to raise millions of dollars each year. Pledges made by federal civilian, postal and military donors during the campaign season (Sept. 1 to Dec. 15) support eligible non-profit organizations that provide health and human service benefits throughout the world.



TEAM ORLANDO IN PHOTOS



Photo courtesy of Mike Sardello

Col. Mike Zarbo, project manager for PM ITTS, gives the Veteran's Day keynote address to more than 1,000 attendees in his hometown of Wakefield, Mass. He commemorated the dedication of the World War II memorial recently built in the town.



Photo courtesy of U.S. Army Photo/Doug Schaub

UCF head football coach George O'Leary (right) and the coach's special assistant Manny Messeguer try their hands at PEO STRI's Engagement Skills Trainer Dec. 8. After a little sharp shooting, O'Leary addressed members of the Team Orlando workforce in an insightful presentation on the parallel between playing and coaching football and serving in the military.



Photo courtesy of U.S. Army Photo/Doug Schaub

The Army team made up of PEO STRI employees takes on the Navy team of NAWCTSD personnel in the annual Turkey Bowl Nov. 16.



Photo courtesy of U.S. Army Photo/Doug Schaub

The Army/Air Force team defeats the Navy/Marine Corps team in the Dec. 8 sand volleyball match.



Photo courtesy of U.S. Army Photo/Doug Schaub

John Collins (left) of PM CATT retires from the federal government Dec. 12 after 32 years of service. Ken Wheeler, assistant program executive officer for business operations, presided over the ceremony that was held in Partnership II.

