



INSIDE ^{PEO} STRI

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WORTH REPEATING

“I knew STRI’s mission, however I didn’t know the full breadth of what they do. They do a lot for the Army. The thing that stood out most was the enthusiasm of its people; they feel like they’ve got a mission and a real sense of purpose.”

— **Lt. Gen. Ross Thompson III**,
Military Deputy to the Assistant Secretary of the Army for Acquisition, Logistics and Technology



U.S. Army Photo

The program executive office ensures that all devices and simulators instructing Warfighters pre- and post-deployment exceed the Army’s training requirements. With President George W. Bush’s recent call for additional troops in Iraq, PEO STRI stands ready to provide all service members with the power of simulation.

PEO STRI Provides Simulation Support to Warfighters

In response to the President’s recent Iraq strategy review, Soldiers preparing to deploy can be confident they will have the capability to train as they fight.

By Kristen Dooley and Heather Kelly, PEO STRI Public Affairs

The U.S. Army’s Program Executive Office for Simulation, Training and Instrumentation (PEO STRI) is currently upgrading critical training devices for deployed Warfighters and those about to deploy.

As the Army’s primary acquisition agency for training and simulation devices, PEO STRI is charged with developing, acquiring, fielding and sustaining products that train Warfighters at home and abroad.

“The upgrades are part of a systematic approach to ensure that training devices are both standardized and modernized to support training, and to provide capabilities when and where needed,” said Don Capps, PEO STRI field service representative to Southwest Asia.

To date, more than 150,000 Soldiers, Sailors, Marines, Airmen, Coast Guardsmen, and members of Coalition Armed Forces have used

training devices provided by PEO STRI.

“The training devices, capabilities and support we provide enable the men and women in our Armed Forces to conduct their missions and come home safely,” Capps said.

Since the first training devices arrived in the Coalition Forces Land Component Command (CFLCC) and the Army Central Command (ARCENT) in March 2003, the number of combat training devices has steadily increased.

The Mobile Military Operations in Urban Terrain (Mobile MOUT) and the Engagement Skills Trainer 2000 (EST 2000) were the first simulators to reach Kuwait and Afghanistan. To date, they are the most widely-used training devices by Soldiers entering Iraq.

“Soldiers are almost universal in their praise for the systems,” said Capps.

Other simulations scheduled to be upgraded

Continued on page 8

PEO STRI Setting DAWIA Standards

The Program Executive Office for Simulation, Training and Instrumentation (PEO STRI) graduated Defense Acquisition University (DAU), Program Management Office Course, PMT 352B, in Orlando, Fla., November 17, 2006.

By Heather Kelly, Public Affairs Officer

The 30 member class earned a solid 100 percent certification rate, raising PEO STRI's overall Defense Acquisition Workforce Improvement Act (DAWIA) certification level to a record 75 percent.

During the six-week course, acquisition professionals from the Army, Navy, Air Force, Marine Corps and defense industry convened daily to receive instruction and collaborate on scenario-based practical exercises

Students participated in the MindRover Exercise, a simulation program used to design and equip a vehicle with various sensors, movement components and weapons. These exercises culminated into "Battle Royale" in which the customized vehicles raced against each other.

As a member of the winning team, PEO STRI's Leslie Dubow said the game captured the class's attention.

"It was an engaging tool," said Dubow. "Working with the instructors and as a team really helped the class get involved in the coursework," she added.

Although the MindRover combat race was a part of the curriculum, the course primarily challenges students to broaden their view of program management, said Dubow.

As the second part of the DAWIA Level III certification in the Program Management career field, the course demands time, focus and determination, said Traci Jones, project support executive for PEO STRI.

"Professional development is a priority at PEO STRI," said Jones. "Currently, the Army's DAWIA certification level is 38 percent. Our workforce is far exceeding those numbers," she added.

Jones credits the PEO's high success and certification rate to dedicated workers and supportive leaders. "We encourage all



U.S. Army Photo/Doug Schaub

Representing all branches of the service and industry, members of the graduating PMT 352B course achieved a 100 percent certification rate.

of our employees to take responsibility for their careers. That means getting out of their comfort zones and challenging themselves. The courses offered by the DAU here in Orlando allows them to do just that," said Jones.

The class was the second DAU PMT 352B class held in Orlando. The first on-site class graduated in March 2006. We look forward to hosting more DAU courses on-site, especially PMT 352B.

Headquartered in Orlando, Fla., PEO STRI executes an annual budget of over \$2 billion. In addition to providing interoperable training, testing, simulation solutions and program management, the PEO provides life-cycle support and operations for most of the Army's training systems around the world. PEO STRI is dedicated to putting the power of simulation into the hands of our Warfighters. ■

“ Professional development is a priority at PEO STRI. Currently, the Army's DAWIA certification level is 38 percent. Our workforce is far exceeding those numbers. ”

— Traci Jones,
Project Support Executive for PEO STRI

Blake: “Training and Sustaining Coalition Warfighters is at the Forefront of Our Efforts”

By Kristen Dooley, Public Affairs Specialist

Dr. James Blake, program executive officer for the U.S. Army’s Simulation, Training and Instrumentation office, welcomed senior officials and participants to the seventh annual TechNet symposium Jan. 24 at the Radisson Hotel in Orlando, Fla.

“Today, as our military finds itself both at war and in the midst of transformation, there could not be a more critical time for partnerships and collaboration,” Blake said. “Collaboration between services, industry and academia is absolutely essential for transformation and supporting the Global War on Terror.”

The conference, entitled *Meeting the Transformation Challenges – Training, Testing, Equipping and Sustaining the Coalition Warfighter*, focused on current developments essential to the modernization of the force.

Senior leaders from the services, Department of Defense and industry examined current issues facing our military including the coalition Warfighter, Homeland Defense and the War Against Terror capabilities.

“Over the past few years, we have all seen America’s highly successful joint Warfighting capabilities. These concepts made it from the blackboard to the battlefield with a high degree of effectiveness, and this is a real credit to the



U.S. Army Photo/Shelley Kaufeld

Dr. James Blake spoke at the seventh-annual TechNet conference in Orlando, Fla. The symposium, sponsored by the Association of the United States Army and the Armed Forces Communications and Electronics Association, concentrated on the near term developments essential to modernizing the Army.

Warfighters who made it work,” Blake noted.

Col. Kevin Dietrick, Dr. Roger Smith, Col. James Ralph and Col. David Lockhart participated in various panels covering network-centric operations, embedded training and wireless communication policies.

“I’m particularly proud of what PEO STRI does to support these Soldiers by providing modeling and simulation, training and testing products. Today’s quality training and equipment have improved readiness to a truly unprecedented degree,” Blake said. ■

BANG!



U.S. Army Photo/Doug Schaub

New Military Deputy Makes First Trip to PEO STRI

After attending the TechNet conference, Lt. Gen. Ross Thompson III, visited the Program Executive Office for Simulation, Training and Instrumentation Jan. 24 where he was introduced to a number of training devices currently used by Warfighters. Thompson received live instruction on the Counter-Improvised Explosive Device by the Project Manager for Training Devices. Pictured left to right: David Koch, Maj. Frank Bridges, Lt. Gen. Thompson, and Col. James Ralph.

Security Clearance Process Gets Update

On Oct. 24, 2006, the Army Deputy Chief of Staff, mandated the immediate transition to the Electronic Questionnaire for Investigations Processing (E-QIP) for submissions of security clearance applications and reinvestigations throughout the Army. The E-QIP replaces the Electronic Personnel Security Questionnaire (EPSQ), which had been used within the Department of Defense since 1999.

By Donnette Hart, Security Assistant

What this means to the PEO STRI workforce is we can no longer use the EPSQ to submit personal background information for periodic reinvestigations or first time security clearance investigations. Most of us have used and are familiar with EPSQ. Both EPSQ and E-QIP are electronic versions of the same Standard Form 86, entitled, "Questionnaire for National Security Positions." EPSQ was the downloadable version and E-QIP is web based. Although E-QIP was just recently implemented by the Army, it has been used by industry since July 2005.

Since E-QIP is web based, the transition has presented challenges for local users with respect to accessing the form. The PEO STRI LAN does not allow users to change settings on the "Internet Tools Access Permissions" in Internet Explorer and current internet settings do not allow access to the E-QIP user site. Permanently changing the settings to allow E-QIP access blocks users from accessing other critical programs such as Share Point. This issue was realized prior to Army's implementation of E-QIP when on-site support contractors unsuccessfully attempted to use our LAN to access the E-QIP site. Presently, the Security Office is working with the Chief Information Officer (CIO) to resolve this problem.

The old EPSQ system had its share of challenges when it was first implemented several years ago. PEO STRI LAN users lacked the ability to download EPSQ. The Security Office and CIO worked together at that time to resolve the issue and downloaded the program onto all LAN users' desktops. We are confident we will have a solution to the E-QIP access issues soon.

One of the major differences between E-QIP and EPSQ is the Security Office must grant each user permission to log-on to the E-QIP website. The old EPSQ program would allow anyone to create a form at anytime. E-QIP imposes more control over access to the form and submitting investigation requests for periodic reinvestigations and upgrades for levels of security clearances.

The E-QIP system also features automatic time limitations and will lock the user out if the form is not completed within a specific time. Once an individual is tasked to complete a periodic reinvestigation, he



or she will have a set number of days to initially log-on to the site. The user then has a limited time in which to complete the form. If it is not completed within that time the user is locked out and the Security Office must reinitiate the process from the beginning.

The Office of Personnel Management (OPM) approved electronic fingerprint submission in 2000. As part of the introduction of the E-QIP initiative, OPM again encouraged the electronic submission of fingerprint cards for all first time background investigation submissions. Electronic fingerprinting technology had been an advancement closely monitored by the Security Office.

At the end of fiscal-year 2005, the

Security Office was able to procure a CrossMatch ID 500 system, one of the few FBI approved systems available. The process of electronic fingerprinting involves the digital capture and recording of prints, using a silicon covered glass pad and a program which transmits the fingerprints directly to FBI for analysis. The days of rolling fingerprints, using the old "wet ink" process on fingerprint cards, have gone away. Electronic fingerprint submission not only saves time in the overall clearance process, it is more accurate than the traditional ink and paper method. According to the OPM website, approximately 200 submitting offices throughout the federal government presently use electronic fingerprint submission equipment. Our Security Office was among the first of those 200 offices to make the transition.

These changes are part of an ongoing effort to improve the overall investigations process. According to the OPM website, the e-Clearance initiative leverages information technology to improve the effectiveness and efficiency of the personnel security investigations process. OPM has reduced the time to process background investigations and minimized duplicate background investigations. OPM projects the new process will save the taxpayers about \$260 million over ten years.

With the many recent changes made to the investigations process, the Security Office is working to adapt procedures to make your experience during the transition to E-QIP as easy as possible. An example is that we have modified and localized information within the Army User Handbook for E-QIP. We are prepared meet the challenges of this transition. It is our goal to anticipate problems, resolve them and have solutions in place as soon as possible. We ask for your patience and cooperation as we strive to create a process that is both user-friendly and effective. ■

Army Offers Tribute to Black History Month

The month of February allows all Americans to reflect on the rich heritage of African Americans. It's a legacy defined by great hardships and great triumphs. And it's a legacy of people who understand what it is to have to fight for what you believe in.

Courtesy of www.army.mil/off

Warrant Officer Donnell O. McIntosh Jr., a legal administrator with Headquarters and Headquarters, 1st Armored Division, helped save the lives of two Soldiers Aug. 3, 2003, when he was deployed to Iraq with his unit.

During a resupply mission in central Baghdad, Donnell's convoy was ambushed and he ran to his own vehicle to attempt to radio for medical evacuation. When that failed, Donnell returned to the ambush site and assisted the wounded Soldiers into a nearby store. Donnell then provided medical attention while the Soldiers waited for medical evacuation.

For his actions, Donnell was awarded the Bronze Star with a Valor Device. Donnell is just one person in a long legacy of African American men and women who have served with honor in America's military.

African Americans have served the nation in every war since the American Revolution, and to date, 86 African Americans have been awarded the Medal of Honor.

During Black History Month, we celebrate a community of people who have fought to defend our nation and who have maintained dignity, faith and a vibrant culture despite incredible odds. As Martin Luther King once said, "The ultimate measure of a man is not where he stands in moments of comfort and convenience, but

where he stands at times of challenge and controversy."

Throughout history, African Americans have struggled through some of America's most challenging times, when the nation confronted discrimination and racism.

The struggle for fair treatment was fought in every corner of American society, even in our military. The Army acted as one of the main proponents of change by being one of the first organizations to demand integration, much sooner than private organizations or the public education system. But even the Army had its times of discrimination, and it took bold people standing up for their beliefs to clear the way.

One unit who struggled during

Continued on page 11



U.S. Army Graphic



PEO STRI to Educate Congress for Tenth Consecutive Year



By Kristen Dooley, *Public Affairs Specialist*

The Program Executive Office for Simulation, Training and Instrumentation (PEO STRI) will celebrate its tenth-annual Capitol Hill Demonstration this month, where members of Congress and their staffs will have the chance to experience interactive military simulations and training devices.

“As we celebrate our tenth anniversary on Capitol Hill, I look especially forward to educating our congressmen and women on the extraordinary things PEO STRI does to support our Nation during a very trying time in our country’s history,” said Dr. James Blake, program executive officer for PEO STRI.

Congress members and their staffs are invited to visit the displays Feb. 6 and Feb. 8. In the past, the event has attracted more than 700 senators, representatives and staffers.

“We take the opportunity to be on the Hill to get our message out and highlight our programs,” said Joyce Heine, PEO STRI event and marketing manager.

This year, approximately 120 government and contract personnel will support the Demonstration. “Everyone involved in the project really pulls together as a team to make sure the event is a success,” Heine added.

One core team member charged with supporting STRI on the Hill agrees.

“There has been a great turnout every year,” said Laura Wilson, PEO STRI congressional accounts manager. “It’s a tremendous opportunity for the Army and PEO STRI to educate legislators about their programs and how they are benefiting our Warfighters.”

This year, PEO STRI will be exhibiting more than a dozen devices including the Counter-Improvised Explosive Device, Call for Fire Trainer and the Intelligence Electronic Warfare Tactical Proficiency Trainer Human Control Cell.

Every year, the U.S. Army’s Research and Development Command’s (RDECOM) Simulation Technology and Training Center



Courtesy Photo

Since 1997, PEO STRI has traveled to Washington, D.C. every year to educate congress on the great strides being made in the military’s modeling and simulation community.

has participated in the Demonstration with PEO STRI. This year, the command is exhibiting the Stand Alone Patient Simulator, along with a variety of other training devices.

“Much like PEO STRI, RDECOM sees

a considerable return on investment each year,” Heine said.

Sen. Mel Martinez, Sen. Bill Nelson, Rep. Ric Keller, Rep. Tom Feeney and Rep. Randy Forbes are sponsoring this year’s Capitol Hill Demonstration. ■

STRI Supports Army's Math and Science Competition

A competition that encourages and rewards students from a diverse range of backgrounds, interests and proficiency levels, eCYBERMISSION is a free, web-based science, math and technology contest for sixth through ninth-grade students. A U.S. Army Research and Development Command (RDECOM) initiative, eCYBERMISSION promotes self-discovery for all students to recognize the real-life applications of hard-science disciplines.

By Kristen Dooley, Public Affairs Specialist

The Army recognizes the fundamental importance of science and math to the U.S.' global competitiveness and national security and sponsors eCYBERMISSION. Likewise, the Program Executive Office for Simulation Training and Instrumentation's (PEO STRI) leadership is a huge proponent of the competition.

"eCYBERMISSION is an Army science fair project that we at STRI can incorporate into our community outreach. Local high schools can take advantage of this to involve their students in projects that will challenge them to explore science, internet collaboration, and the opportunities available in the Army," said Dr. Roger Smith, chief scientist for PEO STRI.

After returning from the 2006 Army Science Conference, Dr. Smith contacted Sandy Veautour, chief systems engineer, and Dr. Neil Finklestein with the Army's

Research, Development and Engineering Command's (RDECOM) RDECOM's Simulation, Technology and Training Center to incite a local volunteer effort.

"This is a big deal for the Army," noted Veautour, installation coordinator representing PEO STRI. "And we do some really cool stuff here at PEO STRI. I would love for our workforce to influence students to pursue a math or science-based profession."

Any STRI employee looking for a volunteer opportunity is welcome and encouraged to participate in eCYBERMISSION.

"The real message is that the volunteers do not have to be technical. Everyone can participate in the program because there is a role and responsibility that fits all personalities," said Veautour.

The ambassadors will encourage Orange and Seminole County students to participate in eCYBERMISSION.

CyberGuides will serve as online mentors for eCYBERMISSION teams. Lastly, virtual judges will independently evaluate and score participating teams.

Teams of three to four students from private, public or home schools are challenged to identify a problem in their community that is related to health and safety, arts and entertainment, sports and recreation, or the environment. By selecting a real-life problem, students are encouraged to discover how science, math and technology applies to everyday life.

Recently, a local team from Sanford Middle School was concerned with kids reading below their grade level. In turn, they evaluated the impact of using physically stimulating exercises to increase reading levels by experimenting with the left lobe and right lobe of the brain.

Within two months, there was improvement in reading levels from these exercises. The experiment has led to the reevaluation of the way reading is taught in the school system. In 2004, the Sanford Middle School "Cookiemonsters" won first place in the eighth-grade division for applying math, science and technology to solve a real-life issue.

A single team could win up to \$8,000 in savings bonds, in which 96 teams are awarded throughout the nation annually. To date, more than \$3.5 million in savings bonds has been awarded.

Winners are also rewarded with a trip to Washington, D.C., for several days of competition and educational activities. In addition, the winning teams receive a good deal of media recognition, plaques and eCYBERMISSION t-shirts.

"It's really amazing what some of these kids do," said Veautour.

For more information, visit www.ecybermission.com or to volunteer, contact Sandy Veautour at sandy.veautour@peostri.army.mil or (407) 384-3665. ■



U.S. Army Photo/eCYBERMISSION

All eCYBERMISSION finalists win a trip to Washington, D.C. Pictured are last year's finalists outside of the U.S. Capitol.



CITIZEN STRI

“In light of President’s Day, what U.S. president has had the greatest impact and why?”



“Without a doubt, Theodore Roosevelt, who was the first American to win a Nobel Peace Prize. He was an author, naturalist, and a leader who helped establish our country as an emerging world power. President Roosevelt understood that to maintain peace and democracy, we must have a strong military capability.”

- D. Todd Kohler, PM Field Ops

“One event that sticks vividly in my mind was the Iran Hostage Crisis of 1979-1980. The release of the hostages occurred on the day that President Ronald Reagan was sworn into office. There was great celebration among all Americans for their release. I’ll never forget the moment the TV announced they were set free.”

- Nancy Potts, PM ITTS



“Although maligned in history books, Woodrow Wilson launched the U.S. as a global super power with no precedent to rely on, providing more heralded leaders such as Franklin D. Roosevelt with a benchmark for U.S. power and might.”

- John Daniele, CSG

“I would say George Washington has a big impact on what I do in protocol. George Washington, and a committee of three from the Continental Congress asked Betsy Ross to sew the first flag for our country. George Washington was impressed and entrusted Betsy with making our first flag and protocol tradition began.”

- Marge Hadbavny, BOO



SIMULATION SUPPORT... Continued from front page

are the Abrams Mobile Advanced Gunnery Training Systems and the Bradley Unit Conduct of Fire Trainer. Gunnery trainers are heavily relied upon by the Army and Marine Corps units that flow through the Kuwait Armed Forces Training Center.

“These are upgrades to keep the ARCENT systems current with other gunnery training systems fielded in the force,” Capps noted.

In addition to the current training systems, CFLCC and ARCENT have seen the arrival of entirely new training entities including a Medical Simulation Training Center that became operational May 2006.

“The training that goes on here in CFLCC and ARCENT is literally just the tip of the spear of all the training that is supported by the men and women of PEO STRI,” said Capps.

The agency’s program executive officer, Dr. Jim Blake, agreed.

“I’m particularly proud of what PEO STRI does to support these Soldiers by providing simulation and training products and efficiently and effectively. Today’s training and equipment have improved readiness to a truly unprecedented degree,” said Blake.

“We are dedicated to making sure our troops are the best trained, the best equipped and the best informed in the world. ■

STRI DEVICES IN THEATER

The following list illustrates the vast presence PEO STRI has on military training immediately before deployment to Iraq. More than 150,000 Warfighters have trained on devices in the CFLCC and ARCENT area of responsibility.

Mobile Military Operation in Urban Terrain

- Kuwait -
- Afghanistan -

Engagement Skills Trainer 2000

- Kuwait -
- Afghanistan -

Medical Simulation Training Center

- Kuwait -
- Afghanistan -
- Iraq -

Call For Fire Trainer

- Kuwait -
- Afghanistan -

Conduct of Fire Trainer Advanced Gunnery Training System

- Kuwait -

Abrams Mobile Advanced Gunnery Training Systems

- Kuwait -

Bradley Unit Conduct of Fire Trainers

- Kuwait -
- Iraq -

Bradley Advanced Training System – Gunnery

- Iraq -

Laser Marksmanship Training System

- Kuwait -
- Afghanistan -
- Iraq -

Want your opinion heard? Answer March’s Question! **In celebration of St. Patrick’s Day and the luck of the Irish, what has been your luckiest moment?** Send your response to kristen.dooley@us.army.mil and put Citizen STRI in the subject line.

U.S. Army Photos/Doug Schaub

LEGAL CORNER



By Laura Cushler, Associate Counsel

Seven Ways to Get a Jump Start Your 2006 Tax Return

Tax season is here and most folks have already received their W-2s, 1099 forms, and the information from banks and mortgage lenders about interest earned and taxes paid in 2006. Earlier is always better when it comes to working on your taxes. Avoid the last minute rush and get your refund sooner!

Here are seven easy ways to get a jump-start on your taxes long before midnight on the April 17, 2007* deadline:

- 1** Gather your records in advance. Ensure you have all of your records in advance. By law, banks and financial institutions are required to mail out earnings, interest, and tax statements by Jan. 31. Do not forget to save a copy for your files.
- 2** Get the right forms. All 2006 Internal Revenue Service (IRS) forms and publications are now available on www.irs.gov.
- 3** Take your time. Leave yourself plenty of time to fill out your taxes and do not do everything at once. Make room for a coffee break. Rushing can mean making a mistake.
- 4** Double-check your math and verify all Social Security numbers. The most common errors found on tax returns are math errors or mistakes in recording Social Security

numbers. Avoid hearing from the IRS and speed up your return by checking the numbers.

- 5** Get the fastest refund. When you file early, you will receive your refund faster. Do not forget to choose direct deposit on your tax form. Your refund will come sooner than if you wait for a check. Once you file, you may check on the status of your refund on the IRS website www.irs.gov.
- 6** E-filing is easy. E-filing catches math problems and provides confirmation that your return has been filed. You will also get a faster refund. If your Adjusted Gross Income is \$52,000 or less, you can use one of the 2007 Free File programs listed on www.irs.gov. For example, filers who live in Florida can file free through www.taxactonline.com, www.ezTaxReturn.com, and www.citizenatx.com. Some of these websites have age restrictions. Some will allow electronic filing for a fee, even if you do not meet the age and income criteria.
- 7** Don't panic. If you have a problem or question, the IRS provides customer service at 1-800-829-1040. ■

APRIL

S	M	T	W	R	F	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30					

**Note that your tax return has to be postmarked by April 17, 2007 in order to meet the deadline this year. The reason for the extra two days is that April 15 falls on a Sunday and Monday, April 16, is Emancipation Day in the District of Columbia. Therefore, the whole country has until midnight on April 17 to file their tax returns.*

HOLIDAYS & Events

- Feb. 4
Super Bowl game
- Feb. 5-9
Capitol Hill Demonstration
- Feb. 12
Lincoln's birthday
- Feb. 14
Valentine's Day
- Feb. 19
President's Day
- Feb. 22
Town Hall meeting
- Feb. 22
Washington's birthday

Hails and Farewells

Hails

- Kathryn Dillon PSG
- Sean Palmer PM CATT
- Emanuel Tornquist III PM ITTS

Farewells

- Joe Baldauf PM ITTS
- Harold Cook PM ITTS
- Kevin Hottell PM Field OPS
- Billy Parsons PM ITTS
- William Pike PSG

THE ARMY CIVILIAN CORPS CREED

I am an Army Civilian - a member of the Army Team I am dedicated to our Army, our Soldiers and Civilians I will always support the mission I provide stability and continuity during war and peace I support and defend the Constitution of the United States and consider it an honor to serve our Nation and our Army I live the Army values of Loyalty, Duty, Respect, Selfless Service, Honor, Integrity, and Personal Courage I am an Army Civilian

Protocol TIP OF THE MONTH

By Marge Hadbavny

Q. What is the proper time to arrive for an appointment?

Q.

A.

Never arrive late for an appointment, but arrive no more than five minutes early.

segregation was the 54th Regiment of Massachusetts, whose deeds were immortalized in the movie "Glory." It is amazing to think that these men had the conviction to fight a war at the same time they battled racism within their own ranks.

In 1951, just a few years after the 555th cleared the way for black paratroopers, a young Airborne Infantry officer, Roscoe Robinson Jr., graduated from West Point and went to his first assignment with the 188th Airborne Infantry Regiment. Twenty five years later, he became the first African American commander of the 82nd Airborne, and in 1985 Gen. Roscoe Robinson, Jr., retired after serving 34 years and distinguishing himself as the first black four-star general.

Gen. Robinson was just one of a legion of Soldiers who would clear the way for others with their accomplishments and sheer tenacity. During World War II, when the U.S. was suffering heavy casualties on multiple fronts, a call went out for volunteer riflemen to fill the ranks of the Infantry.

There were so many African American volunteers, that the leadership actually put

a limit on the number of black Soldiers they deployed. They feared that such a rapid integration would compromise the cohesiveness of units.

But there was no doubt that the time had come for the Army to recognize the great accomplishments and bravery of black Soldiers. After seeing the tenacity of Soldiers, Army leadership recognized the need for change. It took a while, but the call for change was answered because African American Soldiers stood up and refused to be treated as second class. That recognition was earned.

On July 26, 1948, President Harry Truman issued Executive Order 9981. It officially ended segregation in the Armed Forces. However, it took a while for the words on paper to have real power over the way the Army was organized, and it took many brave Soldiers standing up for what was right to make that change possible.

By July 1953, five years after President Truman officially ended segregation in the military, 98-percent of the Armed Forces were integrated. These changes came in a time of great upheaval, one year before Brown vs. the Board of Education

dismantled segregation in public schools and 12 years before legislation would be passed to protect African Americans' right to vote.

Today, we don't know the names and faces of every person who fought against injustice, but we know that without them, the Civil Rights movement never would have happened. Every one of those people had to make a conscious decision that they would win the battle over apathy, fatalism and fear.

But there is more to be done. Throughout the world and even here in the United States, there are still people who suffer under injustice, poverty, discrimination and oppression. There are still changes to be made and battles to be fought. Only when each individual person makes a commitment to stand for what's right can people work together to bring positive change.

For anyone who has heard their personal call to duty, they will relate to what Ralph Abernathy said about his own call to duty in the civil rights movement. "I don't know what the future may hold, but I know who holds the future." ■

FAREWELL



U.S. Army Photo/Doug Schaub

Lt. Col. Tom Ellen, former British foreign liaison officer to the Program Executive Office for Simulation, Training and Instrumentation, departed after serving a four-year tour. A farewell ceremony was held Feb. 5, in which Rob Reyenga, business operations executive, presented Ellen with a PEO STRI coin.

I/ITSEC 2008 Theme and Logo Contest

The Army is in charge of coming up with the theme and logo for the 2008 Interservice/ Industry Technology, Simulation and Education Conference. You are encouraged to submit your idea for the new theme and logo to Heather Kelly by March 30, 2007. The winner will be announced at the May 2007 Town Hall.

2005

"One Team. One Fight. One Training Future."



2006

"Training the 21st Century Joint Force."



2007

"Maintaining the Edge Transforming the Force."

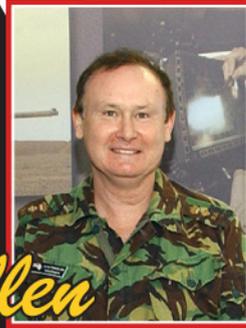
2008

The next could be yours!



Erwin Manegold

PEO STRI



Lt. Col. Tom Ellen

EMPLOYEE SPOTLIGHTS

U.S. Army Photos/Doug Schaub

and the pursuit of happiness.”

Manegold also noticed some prevailing differences between the U.S. and his native country, including the dissimilarities in geographical size, working conditions, tipping etiquette and driving techniques.

While becoming accustomed to the American lifestyle, Manegold also learned many important lessons pertinent to his mission here at PEO STRI.

“So far, the greatest thing I have learned during my tour is the method of cooperation between government agencies, industry and academia. Additionally, even out of mishaps or cancelled programs, there are always positive lessons learned for future projects,” Manegold reminisced. “Most importantly, the problems or difficulties reported by Soldiers on the battlefield have the highest priority and there are always quick solutions for their needs.”

Manegold’s six-year tour concludes October 2007. After departing from PEO STRI, he said he plans to use the experience he gained to work in the modeling and simulation field.

“I hope my successor will find the same excellent working conditions and friendships at STRI,” Manegold commented on his approaching departure from the PEO. “I would like to thank all the members of STRI for their support during the last years of my tour.”

Aside from Manegold’s professional duties, he enjoys building model ships, riding his motorcycle and working around his house.

Ellen also enjoys working on his house, a 300-year-old home, through restoration and renovation projects. In addition, he said he enjoys traveling and outdoor activities like hiking and biking. ■

INSIDE PEO STRI

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German governments, industry and academia on all armament and defense issues including establishing new contacts and contracts, renewing existing links and providing information,” Manegold stated.

His duties, and the responsibilities of all FLOs, include monitoring and analyzing defense issues, supporting the execution of defense programs, sustaining international program offices and coordinating technical data exchange programs.

“I came to PEO STRI to learn more about how the U.S. Army handles simulation, training and instrumentation issues from planning to lifecycle support,” Manegold said. “I also came to learn more about the living conditions and to understand the U.S. a little better.”

With the help of the PEO STRI workforce, Manegold has learned much about the American way of life.

“My best experience has been the treatment by the STRI workforce,” Manegold said. “I never felt like a stranger, but more like a member of the STRI family.”

Much like Manegold, the PEO STRI team welcomed Ellen with open arms, where he quickly became part of the family.

“The greatest thing I’ve learned during my tour is the deep and abiding understanding and respect I have for the U.S. and its people. There are similarities between our two cultures, but also huge differences,” commented Ellen, who joked that the greatest distinction occurred in the late 1700’s when the U.S. won their independence and Britain lost a colony.

“Getting to grips with the differences has helped make my time here so rewarding,” Ellen noted. “But underneath it all, people everywhere are motivated by the same things—life, liberty,

STRI Embraces International Community

By Kristen Dooley, Public Affairs Specialist

Aligned with the U.S.’ National Defense Policy, the Department of Defense encourages global cooperation with allied and friendly-nonallied countries by sharing military resources.

In accordance with the policy, the Program Executive Office for Simulation, Training and Instrumentation (PEO STRI) participates in the Foreign Liaison Officer (FLO) program. The program allows U.S. allies and friendly-nonallied countries to post military or civilian personnel at locations for extended periods of time. FLOs participate in work such as the research, development and testing of technologies that benefit both the U.S. and foreign countries.

Currently, Erwin Manegold, a German foreign national, is the only FLO assigned to PEO STRI; however, Lt. Col. Tom Ellen of Great Britain also held a similar position until his four-year tour officially concluded last month.

“Our armies operate so closely together, both historically during World War II and the Cold War, and more recently in Iraq and Afghanistan that we have formal relationships through treaty organizations,” Ellen said. “However, our closest relationships are the ones based on personal contact and that’s where I come in.”

“I am a focal point between the U.S. and U.K. armies, specifically in the area of training, technology and simulation. I report on things of interest here in the U.S. and make sure both nations benefit.”

Like Ellen, Manegold serves as a liaison between his own country and the U.S.’ modeling and simulation community.

“I am the point of contact for the U.S. and