



INSIDE ^{PEO} STRI

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WORTH REPEATING

“He grabbed grenades and his weapon and climbed that crucial hill alone...with his wounds aching, bullets flying and grenades falling. Someone remarked: ‘Either he’s the bravest Soldier I have ever met, or he’s crazy.’ Soldiers watched in awe as Woody single-handedly took out one machine gun nest, and then another. When Woody was through, all 16 enemy soldiers were dead, the hill was taken and the allies won the day.”

— **President George W. Bush**, explaining the heroics of Master Sgt. Woodrow Keeble, the U.S.’ first Sioux Indian Medal of Honor recipient.

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Cubic Corporation Photo/Simulation Systems Division

PEO STRI's Project Manager Combined Arms Tactical Trainers oversees the production, fielding and sustainment of the Engagement Skills Trainer (EST) 2000. The EST 2000 enables Soldiers to go through initial and sustainment marksmanship training, along with collective gunnery and tactical instruction.

EST Provides Realistic Training

By Sgt. Kevin Stabinsky, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 3rd Infantry Division Public Affairs

The Soldiers of the 1st Battalion, 76th Field Artillery Regiment have found themselves in an unfamiliar situation as the need for infantryman increases.

The Engagement Skills Trainer 2000 (EST 2000) immerses Soldiers into realistic scenarios in which they are forced to react and communicate as if they were facing real dangers in combat.

In one scenario, the convoy takes them through a small village known to provide sanctuary for insurgents. Despite intelligence reports that insurgents are known to cause diversions to stop convoys, the Soldiers still come to a standstill when they see a crowd of local citizens seeking medical attention for a woman in distress.

Dismounting from the protection of their up-armored vehicles, five of the 4th Brigade Combat Team, 3rd Infantry Division, Fort Stewart, Ga., Soldiers, and an Iraqi policeman, walk toward the crowd to see what they can do.

The crowd shouts in Arabic causing them to slowly raise their weapons higher from the low ready. Their Iraqi police counterpart does little

to calm their nerves.

“The [Iraqi policeman] is making me nervous,” one remarks, noting the man's inability to stand still and focus on the crowd, along with his constant need to look back to the Soldiers for reassurance.

The Soldiers determine that the policeman's actions are understandable and despite their nervousness, they remain vigilant, relying on their previous training to guide their decisions.

One Soldier remembers an obscure tidbit from Arabic culture training. While most of the crowd is waving with their right hands, one man off to the side of the crowd is waving with his left hand. He is dressed in olive drab fatigues and a white and black checkered headdress.

Remembering that the left hand is considered unclean and not used in interactions, the Soldier warns his counterparts. “Watch that guy,” he shouts.

Seconds later, he calls out that he sees a weapon and raises his weapon to engage. The cries of the crowd are replaced by the click of a trigger as one shot rings out.

Continued on page 7



Col. Kevin M. Dietrick
Deputy Program Executive Officer for
Simulation, Training and Instrumentation

Fellow STRI Employees:

Recently the Army approved my retirement date of Sept. 1, 2008. My decision to retire came after careful thought and deliberation with my family about how I might continue to contribute to our nation, and with Dr. Blake about what is best for the PEO.

This year, as I enter my 30th year in the Army, I wanted to select a retirement date that lined up with Dr. Blake's ability to select a qualified replacement for the deputy position. The summer timeframe represented the best opportunity for him to do that.

My career, like that of most Soldiers, has been one of mostly one, two and three year assignments, with every assignment offering growth, opportunity and rewarding experiences. This assignment at STRI is unique in that I have been here for six years, with one deployment, and culminating with my assignment as your deputy PEO. I cannot think of any better way to cap off my career in the Army.

We at STRI still have much to do in the coming months, but I wanted to take this opportunity to formally announce my plans, and to tell you how much I have enjoyed working with you as part of this magnificent organization.

Mission First, People Always!

Kevin M. Dietrick
Colonel, U.S. Army

PM ITTS Targets Management Office Finds a New Use for Outdated Targets

By Eric Hoffman, PEO STRI Project Manager Instrumentation Targets & Threat Simulators, Security Officer

PEO STRI's Targets Management Office (TMO), located at Redstone Arsenal, Ala., has provided testing targets to the Department of Defense (DoD) and contractors for many years. TMO has acquired and created many different types of targetry for meeting the demands of the DoD community.

Two such targets, the Hokum and a fleet of QUH-1 Huey drones, have outlived their usefulness as viable assets for TMO. With changing technology and new mission requirements, the need to carry a fleet of rotary wing aircraft has greatly diminished.

TMO started looking at ways to reutilize the targets. The Hokum, an AH-1 Cobra modified to simulate a Russian attack helicopter, found a home in the White Sands Missile Range (WSMR) Museum. The museum collects displays of projects that have impacted the history of the range.

"The WSMR Museum is very pleased to have the Hokum target helicopter," said Darren Court, museum curator. "Its importance, once it is placed into Missile



Courtesy Photo

Project Manager Instrumentation Targets and Threat Simulators discovered a revised utilization for two targets that no longer meet the mission requirements. One of the two types of targets, the QUH-1 Huey drone pictured above, will be transferred to the 5th Armored Brigade to provide pre- and post-mobilization training.

Park, is that it will allow our museum visitors to see just how the Targets Branch can take

a U.S. vehicle and modify it to resemble a Soviet vehicle, providing realism in missile testing. It will be a welcomed addition to the WSMR Museum's collection of target vehicles."

Eleven Huey drones will be transferred to the 5th Armored Brigade. The brigade, stationed at Fort Carson, Colo., is a reserve training task force providing pre- and post-mobilization specific training to reserve and active duty units. Accepting the aircraft on behalf of the 5th Armored Brigade was Chief Warrant Officer 3 Don Kolesar.

"With the transfer of the Hueys, the brigade will be able to provide Soldiers with realistic training in Medevac procedures," he said. The helicopters will be placed at the unit's training ranges at Fort Bliss.

"These actions have ensured that the Hokum will not be forgotten and the Huey drones will provide the Warfighter with the opportunity to train on real equipment, ensuring success on the battlefield," said Al Brown, acting director for TMO. "At the same time we have eliminated the cost of keeping the aircraft in a serviceable condition. It is a win for the all parties." ■

C E L E B R A T I O N H E A L T H



Courtesy Photo

A team of PEO STRI employees visited the Nicholson Center for Surgical Advancement in Celebration, Fla., Feb. 22. The Center, a teaching hospital affiliated with UCF's new medical school, is focused on advanced robotics surgery and will be the home of many surgical simulators. Pictured from left to right: Col. Craig Langhauser, project manager for Combined Arms Tactical Trainers, Maj. Dave Thompson, assistant product manager for Medical Simulation Training Centers, Dr. Vipul Patel, robotic surgeon at Celebration Health, Roger Smith, chief technology officer for PEO STRI, Dr. Richard Satava, special assistant in Advanced Surgical Technologies at the Army Medical Research and Materiel Command, and Rick Wassel, director of the Nicholson Center.



TOWN HALL MEETING

FEBRUARY 21, 2008

Quarter

IRS Stimulus Package Rebate: Exactly How Much Will You Receive?

By Laura Cushler, Associate Counsel

On Feb. 13, President Bush signed into law the \$168 Billion Economic Stimulus Act of 2008. Part of the package includes tax rebate checks for most Americans. The basic rebate amount is the lesser of net income tax liability, or \$600 (\$1200 for married couples filing jointly).

This applies if and only if:

1. *the taxpayer has \$3,000 in qualified income (earned income, social security, railroad retirement, and/or veterans benefits)*
- OR**
2. *the taxpayer has a gross income greater than the basic standard deduction plus one exemption (two exemptions for married couples filing jointly) AND the taxpayer has a net taxable income of at least \$1, then the taxpayer qualifies for the minimum rebate amount of \$300 (\$600 for married couples filing jointly) plus an additional \$300 per child.*

Since this rebate is an advance for a new credit that will be included on the 2008 1040 income tax form, it will not affect your 2007 taxes. In April 2008, you will receive what you are owed, or you will have to pay what you owe, as if the rebate never occurred.

This summer you will receive the rebate for the 2008 credit as calculated above. In April 2009 or thereabouts, when you file

your taxes for 2008, the IRS will run the calculation for the stimulus rebate credit again.

If the results show that you would have received more (due to an additional child, for instance), you will be sent the difference.

If your results show that you would have received a smaller rebate, then you get to keep the difference. This is an additional credit. You do not have to pay back to the IRS what you will receive this summer. Receiving this advance will not reduce next year's refund nor will you owe more federal tax.

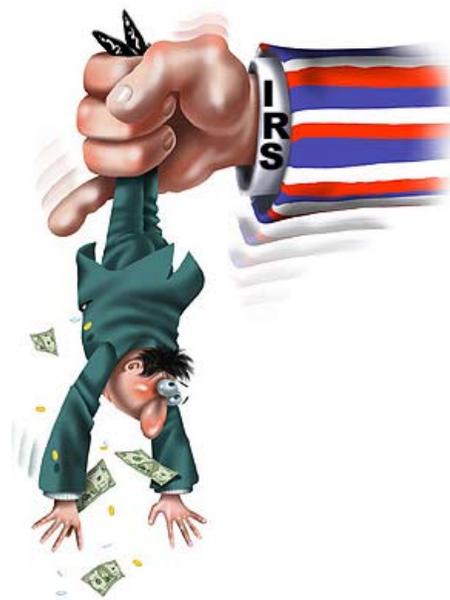
Here is the Scoop:

1. The rebate is only available for eligible taxpayers! A taxpayer is ineligible if he or she can be claimed as a dependent on someone else's return, or if he or she is a nonresident alien.
2. For taxpayers with an adjusted gross income less than \$75,000, or \$150,000 for married couples filing jointly. The basic or minimum rebate amount is reduced by five percent of the adjusted gross income more than those amounts.
3. The rebate is an advance credit against your 2008 tax return, which will be filed in 2009. It is calculated, however, based on the amounts shown on your 2007 return (which will be filed in 2008). When you file

your 2008 return, the IRS will recalculate your rebate based on the 2008 amounts. If this results in a larger rebate amount, you will receive a refund of the difference. If this results in a smaller rebate amount, you will not have to repay the difference.

4. The rebate will not increase or decrease any tax refund to which you would otherwise be entitled. It is an additional credit for 2008, which you are receiving in advance. To receive a rebate (which the IRS is now calling a "stimulus payment") you **MUST** file a 2007 tax return, even if you are not otherwise required to file.

For a simple way to figure out your rebate, see <http://www.kiplinger.com/tools/rebate/>. ■



Even Just an Ounce of Prevention Is Worth More Than a Pound of Cure

By Bill Osborne and Donnette Hart, *Security Office*

We've all heard horror stories about fraud that's committed on us in stealing a name, address, Social Security number, and credit cards. Within a day thieves can order cell phone packages, apply for credit cards, have a credit line approved for major purchases, get a personal identification number from the Department of Motor Vehicles to change your driving record information online, and more.

The following information could limit the damage in case this happens to you or someone you know:

1. Instead of signing the back of your credit cards, print the words: "PHOTO ID REQUIRED" or "CHECK PHOTO ID."
2. When writing checks to make credit card payments, do not put the complete account number on the "For" or "Memo" lines, just write the last four numbers. The credit card company knows the rest of your account number and anyone who might be handling your check as it passes through the check processing channels will be denied access to your complete account number.
3. Place your work phone number on your checks instead of your home phone. If you have a Post Office Box, use that instead of your home address. If you do not have a Post Office Box, use your work address. Also, never have your Social Security number printed on your checks.
4. Take the contents of your wallet and place them on a photocopy machine. Copy both sides of each license, credit card, etc. Keep the photocopy in a safe place and you will always have a consolidated list of all your account numbers and corresponding phone numbers readily available if you ever have to cancel them.

We've always been told we should cancel our credit cards immediately. The key is having the toll free numbers and your card numbers handy so you know whom to call. File a police report immediately in the jurisdiction where your credit cards, etc., were stolen. This proves to credit providers you were diligent.

But here's what is perhaps most important of

all... Call the three national credit reporting organizations immediately to place a fraud alert on your name.

CONTACT:

Equifax: (800) 525-6285

Experian (formerly TRW): (888) 397-3742

TransUnion: (800) 680-7289

The alert means any company that checks your

credit knows your information was stolen and they have to contact you by phone to authorize new credit.

We also recommend that you call the Social Security fraud line if you know your social security number may have been compromised at 800-269-0271.

Finally, we recommend that you carry a photocopy of your passport whenever you travel outside of the U.S. ■

Don't Let Any Part of Your Life Be a Soft Target!



Practice Good OPSEC at Home as Well as at Work!

- *Don't Throw Away Papers with Sensitive Personal Information! Shred Them!*
- *Don't Let Your Schedule Be Predictable!*
- *Practice Safe Computing!*
- *Always Be Aware of Your Adversaries!*



"Defend your actions," flashes across the screen taking them out of their patrol and back into the safety of the dark training room.

"People really get into it," said Steve Brockwell, EST operator. "It's good for NCOs [non-commissioned officers] to train their people on."

One NCO taking advantage of the training is Sgt. 1st Class Chris LeMaire, gun truck platoon sergeant, Headquarters and Headquarters Battery, 1-76th Field Artillery Regiment.

"This is a newly formed gun truck platoon," he said, adding the battalion will soon be taking over responsibility of the area controlled by the 2nd Battalion, 69th Armor Regiment, 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 3rd Infantry Division.

The EST 2000 unit is capable of a variety of tasks, including range training, weapon zeroing, and weapon familiarization, Brockwell said.

Although some Soldiers might not take the concept seriously at first, once engaged, Soldiers quickly realize the system isn't just some over-the-top videogame system.

"When you go down to the scenarios, we realize we can really do this for real," said Spc. Nick Geno, a fire direction specialist with Headquarters and Headquarters Battery, 1-76 Field Artillery. "It's not playtime anymore."

By immersing Soldiers in a virtual reality environment, where actors portray specific roles, wearing realistic garb, speaking in Arabic and working in an environment that could have been lifted from Iraq, the experience is quite lifelike.

Adding to the realism are the weapons used by the Soldiers. They use their own weapons that are fitted with a special device that allows them to shoot a laser and interact with the

imagery on the screen. The weapon retains the recoil of a live round, said Brockwell.

Realism is also achieved by altering scenarios as they are run through by the Soldiers who train in five-man teams, said Sgt. 1st Class Raymond Linck, the EST NCO in-charge.

"We can bump up or down the severity at any time to keep them on their toes," he said. "They'll never know how the scenario will play out. It teaches situational awareness."

This feature prevents Soldiers who are watching from "cheating," Brockwell said. With the press of a button, scenarios can change in a flash, just like real combat. One squad's previous walk through a local market could be uneventful while the next pass through could be full of insurgent forces.

Besides this alteration, scenarios can also be tailored to a unit's individual mission needs, said Linck. Units more likely to patrol the roads can spend more time on convoy-based scenarios, while foot patrolling units can experience walking through towns, manning checkpoints or engaging locals in a market place.

"Being artillery filling in for an infantry role, we're not used to some of these missions," said LeMaire. "This training will help us be an efficient force."

"When we run through as a squad, it helps give us experience giving commands, working on our communication," added Geno, who said improving communication is key. "This is a good refresher."

Though the EST 2000 was originally installed to help refresh the skills of the 5th Squadron, 7th Cavalry Regiment, 1st Brigade Combat Team, 3rd Infantry Division recently transferred under operational authority of the 2nd Brigade Combat Team, Linck said any unit can come work on the training system.

"We are willing to work with any unit," he said, noting that his home unit, the 26th Brigade Support Battalion (BSB), 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 3rd Infantry Division, has used the machine extensively. "The whole BSB has been through,

including the key leadership. They liked it a lot."

Even units and Soldiers who may never leave the base can get some good training out of the system. It can simulate weapon qualification ranges, allowing Soldiers to keep their shooting skills sharp without having to arrange for using a real range, getting ammunition, and providing the usual safety precautions, Brockwell said.

"If you don't fire right on the EST 2000, you won't on the range. Here you can work on muscle memory, see where every bullet goes," he said.

"It's best to hit it right before the range," Linck added, as it helps Soldiers familiarize themselves with their weapons and refresh their basic rifle marksmanship skills.

Besides these advantages, the training system also has a large advantage for the Army by decreasing the cost of training without decreasing the quality. "For five dollars of diesel you can run it for eight hours," Brockwell said.

In those eight hours, a Soldier can fire thousands of rounds. With live ammunition costing 28 cents a round, the savings really add up, Brockwell said, allowing the Army to spend more money on equipment to keep Soldiers safer and more comfortable.

Soldiers do not need to come as a unit. He said if a leader just wants to come down and train a Soldier on their weapon or a new weapon system, they can come by.

On average, it takes a five man team 45 minutes to run through each scenario, allowing Linck and Brockwell to accommodate up to 100 Soldiers a day.

"I think it will be very helpful for the FOB [Forward Operating Base]," Linck said of the training being offered.

Watching the improvement in his Soldiers as they defend in the convoy scenario and go onto another scenario, this time in a marketplace, LeMaire can't help but agree.

"What it does is it boosts the junior leadership," LeMaire said. "It gives me a chance to evaluate my guys."

The evaluations, like the targets, are shown instantly on the screen. Already a marked improvement can be seen in the percentage of lethal shots fired and reaction time of Soldiers between the time they first see a threat to the time they respond to it.

Even though the sights are virtual, the results are a reality, which LeMaire said he is glad to see. "I have a feeling that when they go outside the wire they'll have a lot of confidence." ■



Cubic Corporation Photo/Simulation Systems Division

For the past two years, all Army basic trainees are required to qualify with their weapon on the EST 2000 before they are able to shoot live rounds on the firing range.



Introducing
**Sergeant Major
 David Lanham**
 the
PEO STRI
Employee Spotlight



By Kristen Dooley, PEO STRI Public Affairs Officer

Courtesy Photo

Sgt. Maj. David Lanham was promoted Feb. 29 to the highest enlisted rank in the U.S. Army.

“The promotion enables me to enhance the ability of PEO STRI because I now have an increased accessibility to many levels within the Army,” Lanham said.

Traditionally, Soldiers with the rank of sergeant major advise senior staff officers regarding matters concerning the enlisted personnel in their command.

At PEO STRI, Lanham serves as the senior enlisted advisor to the program executive officer, Dr. Jim Blake.

“Sgt. Maj. Lanham’s promotion to the most senior enlisted rank within the Army reflects highly not only on him, but also the entire PEO,” Blake said. “As an organization, we are proud of his success and recognize that his responsibility in the Army will help to take PEO STRI to the next level.”

As a member of the executive staff, Lan-

ham ensures that training devices continue to meet doctrinal and customer requirements in coordination with the appropriate proponent school, combat developer and user community.

“My position affords me the opportunity to shape the way the Army is going in simulation and training,” Lanham said.

For example, he was instrumental in creating the initial judgmental use-of-force scenarios in the Engagement Skills Trainer 2000. “I used my experiences from Iraq,” Lanham said.

Lanham has served multiple tours in Iraq and Afghanistan in support of Operations Iraqi Freedom and Enduring Freedom as a Special Forces senior sergeant.

When Lanham is not working or training with his special operations unit with the Florida National Guard, he enjoys spending time with his family and working out at the gym. ■

Hails and Farewells

Hails

Mark Dasher
PM TRADE

Randy Sookoo
PSG

Farewells

Charles Farrior
PSG

Joy Hartley
PSG

Barbara Ladd
Acq. Center

Gladys Porch
PSG

Stay Tuned for March's Citizen STRI! To participate, answer the question:

What has been your favorite Town Hall Meeting theme and why?

Send your response to
kristen.dooley@us.army.mil

and put Citizen STRI in the subject line.



INSIDE PEO STRI

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Army Sergeant Major Quick Facts

- ★ The first U.S. Army sergeant major was appointed to the Continental Army in 1776.
- ★ In 1920, it ceased to be a title of rank or grade when the Army standardized the enlisted pay grades. It did, however, survive as the job title of the senior non-commissioned officer of a battalion. It was reintroduced as a rank in 1958 when Congress authorized E8 and E9 pay grades
- ★ The War Department, now the Department of Defense, changed the sergeant major insignia in 1959 to what you'll see today. The insignia has three chevrons above three arcs with a five pointed star between the chevrons and arcs.

