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WORTH REPEATING



When you commit Soldiers – America's sons and daughters – to a mission, not just combat, that's decisive. You now have the American flag and the American Soldier involved... the right expertise, the right leadership, the right capabilities, the right tooth and footprint to the mission."

— Lt. Col.

Thomas Smedley, an Army spokesman at Winter AUSA, emphasizes that America's Army is a decisive force as it provides the guarantee that the mission will get done and will get done right.



U.S. Army Photo/Rick Gregory

The cockpit of the G222 Flight Training Device is an exact functioning replica of the actual aircraft.

STRI SIM SET TO PREP AFGHAN AVIATORS AND LOADMASTERS

By Rick Gregory, APEO Business Operations Support Staff

U.S. Air Force Maj. Mark Jones had a huge problem on his hands.

His G222 medium transport aircraft had not only experienced an engine flameout, but the weather conditions made it extremely dangerous for his emergency landing at the airstrip in Kabul, Afghanistan. With no choice but to attempt the landing, Jones put his nerves and aviation training to the test and took the 22 ton aircraft in for a successful landing.

Minutes later, he was enjoying a hot cup of coffee in Odessa, Fla., with Capt. Brett Speth, a fellow U.S. Air Force aviator,

and Master Sgt. Chris Neufeld, a loadmaster, as they discussed the scenario that had just unfolded.

That afternoon, and the rest of the week, the three aviation professionals would spend time in Odessa testing the G222 Flight Training Device (FTD) that will eventually be shipped to Afghanistan to train about 60 Afghan military aviators and loadmasters in successfully overcoming a host of possible emergency situations when they are in control of the real aircraft.

Though the combination of a flameout and bad weather was a mock scenario injected into the FTD, the realism could not have

been more accurate according to Jones, who is with the 538th Air Expeditionary Advisory Squadron in Kabul, Afghanistan and assigned to train Afghan Air Force pilots.

"The G222 Flight Training Device is the most accurate aircraft-type simulator I have ever flown," he said. "They got it extremely close to the actual feel of flying a real G222."

Speth, who recently returned from training Afghan pilots, agreed with Jones's sentiments about the realism of the trainer.

"They have done a very good job with this simulator," said

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PEO STRI'S TENTH ANNUAL ORGANIZATION DAY



APRIL 13, 2012 ★ 8 A.M. - 3 P.M.

Red Bug Lake Park

\$5 TICKETS ON SALE NOW!
***after March 31 price is \$7**



Gil Ramos, CATT
 Cindy Langfeldt, ConSim
 Kathy Logan, TRADE
 Tracy Allen, ACQ CTR
 Beth Hinds, ITTS

Pat Bittikofer, Field OPS
 "Eddie" Brewer, APEO BO
 Lucia Mezzancello, APEO CS
 Cathy Beauvais, APEO PS
 Troy Ryan, CIO

Ticket SALES End April 6!

★ **TEAM BUILDING EVENTS**

- | | | |
|------------------------|---------------------|----------------------|
| Basketball | Extreme Engineering | Texas Hold 'Em |
| Bingo | Golf Chip | Volleyball |
| Chili Competition | Horseshoes | Water Relay |
| Culinary Arts Bake-off | Professional Relay | TBA - Surprise Event |
| Dominos | Softball | |
| Egg Toss | STRI-IDOL | |



NO CHILDREN • NO PETS • EMPLOYEES ONLY

Attendance is required for all PEO STRI military, civilian and in-house support contractor employees.



U.S. Army Photo/Rachel Larue

Secretary of the Army John M. McHugh swears in 33rd Vice Chief of Staff of the Army Gen. Lloyd J. Austin III on Joint Base Myer-Henderson Hall, Va.

Austin Sworn in as Vice Chief of Staff

By Courtney Dock-Abuhl, *Pentagram Newspaper*

Gen. Lloyd J. Austin III was sworn in as the Army's 33rd vice chief of staff during a ceremony at Joint Base Myer-Henderson Hall in Fort Myer, Va., Jan. 31.

Secretary of the Army John M. McHugh administered the oath of office and then thanked the general for his outstanding service and dedication to the Army.

"I expect Lloyd to continue his leadership and advocacy on behalf of Soldiers and their families, just as he has in virtually every other assignment he's held," McHugh said. "Lloyd Austin has always led from the front, led by example—not just

telling Soldiers, but showing Soldiers the right way, the Army way, the Lloyd Austin way."

After the oath, McHugh presented Austin with the vice chief of staff flag, signifying the general's assumption of responsibility.

"Lloyd Austin is, as he always has been, a full-spectrum leader," McHugh said. "[He is] a leader that at every level of command has demonstrated to his troops the right way to lead, the right way to live as a Soldier."

After assuming responsibility, the general thanked his family, friends and former leaders. He also thanked the Soldiers he's

worked with throughout his career. He said the ceremony was just as much about them as it was about him.

America's Soldiers "continue to amaze me with their continued resilience, flexibility and motivation," Austin said. "They are indeed the fabric of our Army. They've made every seemingly impossible task look easy."

Most recently, Austin served as commanding general of United States Forces - Iraq. In fact, he was the last to hold that position, as Operation New Dawn ended in December. The complex task of leaving Iraq was completed, in no small part, by American

Soldiers.

"Most recently in Iraq, they've completed one of the most complex logistics and operational maneuvers in our nation's history," said Austin. "They did it all without incident and they finished ahead of schedule. They did all of this in contact with a determined enemy. I am truly humbled by and thankful for their service and their many sacrifices."

Austin replaces Gen. Peter Chiarelli as the vice chief of staff of the Army. Chiarelli retired from the Army after 40 years of service during a ceremony held earlier in the day.

PEO STRI Converts to USA Staffing

By Bernadette Kirchner, PEO STRI Personnel Resources

PEO STRI will convert March 30 from the Resumix hiring system to USA Staffing, an automated tool that will streamline the job announcement, referral and selection processes. The transition to USA Staffing supports the Office of Personnel Management's end-to-end hiring model and presidential hiring reform initiatives.

The two systems are very different. USA Staffing is not an automated keyword system like Resumix. The resumes in USA Staffing are read by HR specialists. While USA Staffing is not perfect, it offers the prospective job candidate a more rational, transparent and objective approach to the complex requirements of the federal hiring process.

The Army introduced the system via a USA Staffing pilot to select locations in March 2010. The Civilian Personnel Advisory Center, known as CPAC, has been transitioning from using Resumix to USA Staffing over the past two years with Army-wide completion by April 2012. PEO STRI intentionally delayed the organization's movement into USA Staffing until completion of the first post-AcqDemo transition performance cycle.

Lisa Taylor, PEO STRI's personnel resources manager, and Ken Wheeler, the assistant program executive officer for business operations, are leading the Resumix to USA Staffing efforts and are working to ensure a smooth transition for the workforce.

Taylor confirmed that the communication and training strategies would be robust, information-rich and developed to respond to both manager and employee questions and concerns.

"Our workforce has been through several personnel-related transitions over the past four years. I am firm in my commitment to have the same level of expertise to transition us from Resumix to USA Staffing as we had when we transitioned from AcqDemo to NSPS and back to AcqDemo," Taylor said. "We are ready!"

There are three critical focus areas for the transition. The first is to train leaders, managers, employees and HR practitioners. The second

is to change management and quality control efforts. The last is to actively engage the workforce through various communication methods.

To meet these goals, Taylor is working hand-in-hand with the Jacksonville CPAC director and Army USA Staffing transition managers in a very systematic and deliberate approach to develop readiness checklists and protocols to move the workforce in an orderly manner to USA Staffing.

"At PEO STRI, change has

become very much a part of our lives. We should handle this transition the same way we deal with all the other transitions affecting us today – by getting as much information as we can, being as proactive as possible, asking the questions we need answered and above all, continuing to be the epitome of a professional workforce," Taylor advised.

Members of the workforce who have questions about the transition are encouraged to contact the HR department. "If we don't have an answer to a question yet, it will be good to know the issues so we can ensure they are considered by the Army during our pre-transition period."



Characteristic	Resumix	USA Staffing
Consistency across Defense Components/Agencies	Some use core systems	DoD-wide Implementation
Meets Hiring Reform Requirements	With additional programming	Meets
Quantity of Applicants	High	Moderate
Recreational Applicants	Encouraged by ease of application	Discouraged by occupational questionnaire Tend to "opt out" prior to submission
Applicant Resume	Single text file, limited length	Stores five (5) resumes, applicant chooses format and length
Assessment Methodology	Resume keyword logic Limited SME involvement	Self-reporting through position-based questionnaire Extensive SME involvement
Applicant Notifications (Touchpoints)	Online through Answer	Email and online through Applicant Manager
Viewed by stakeholders	Primarily negative	Primarily positive
Army Usage	AF Recruitment Only	AF and NAF Recruitment



Pardon the Dust: NSA Orlando Makes Base Safer for Employees and Visitors

By Kristen A. McCullough, PEO STRI Public Affairs Officer

Many visitors have likened the installation on which PEO STRI resides to Fort Knox. Security gates, armed guards, cement barriers and badge-entry access probably doesn't make that statement too far from the truth.

Security, the Top Priority

The Naval Support Activity (NSA) Orlando Commanding Officer Capt. Bill Reuter reminds the Team Orlando workforce that these security measures are in the best interest of the people who work on the installation.

"Because NSA Orlando is at the heart of our military's simulation and training efforts, we have a responsibility to uphold force protection measures here," Reuter said. "Like every military base around the globe, we have a responsibility to protect the people and the assets that are so important to our country's national defense. That's why we are periodically required to exercise our capabilities."

Operation Solid Curtain/Citadel Shield

Because practice makes perfect, as the modeling and simulation professionals are so quick to note, NSA Orlando and its tenant organizations will participate in an annual antiterrorism exercise, called Operation Solid Curtain/Citadel Shield, March 19-24. The event will stress different areas of the Navy's antiterrorism program to enhance the training and readiness of Naval Security Force personnel to respond to real-world threats.

Measures have been taken to minimize disruptions to normal



U.S. Army PEO STRI Photo/Doug Schaub

Recent construction projects across Naval Support Activity Orlando make it a safer place to work.

operations, but since the event will result in an increase in the force protection condition, there may be times when the exercise causes delays in base access or increased traffic near NSA Orlando.

Specifically, PEO STRI employees may encounter delays while reporting to work after 12 p.m., on Thursday, March 22 through Saturday, March 24.

New Pass and ID Facility

In line with the installation commander's force protection priorities, the new Pass & ID facility, located adjacent to the Science Drive entrance, is slated to be completed this September. The structure will become the main entry point for all of the installations' guests and also serve as the area for employees to renew their badges and Common Access Cards (CAC).

Automated Gate System

An automated gate system is also currently being implemented and is scheduled to go live this summer. The automation will allow after-hours access to the facility and gives base security personnel the flexibility to either man gates for any part of the day or let the automated system take care of entry control. With this system, employees will get through the gates using their CACs. Temporary or contracted employees without a CAC will be issued a facility access badge by the NSA Orlando Security Department.

"The automated gate system provides NSA Orlando a safe and cost-efficient method to control access to the installation," Reuter said. "The automation allows the base to employ its guards and police officers more

effectively without the need for additional overtime or personnel as required in the past."

Covered Walkways

Aside from the force protection measures, one other improvement to the NSA Orlando campus will be made this spring. Construction of covered walkways between the Partnership II and III buildings will commence in March. A gazebo has already been constructed between the two buildings and serves as the designated smoking area.

PEO STRI Facilities

With these projects and events occurring over the next few months, questions and concerns can be addressed by PEO STRI's facilities lead, George Burmester, the business operations support manager.



U.S. Army Photo/PM ITTS

An MQM-107 High Speed Aerial Target is launched during a training exercise.



U.S. Army Photo/PM ITTS

An MQM-175A Medium Speed Aerial Target is prepared to launch.

AERIAL TARGET TRAINING Becomes More Important than Ever

By Rick Gregory, APEO Business Operations Support Staff

While most of the publicity and accolades during the conflicts in Iraq and Afghanistan have been given to the men and women who fought the ground battles there, recent news reports indicate, in the future, all eyes may be on those Warriors providing protection from missile assaults.

Consider these recent headlines.

“Russia threatens to deploy new missiles aimed at U.S. defense sites in Europe,” from the Associated Press.

“Iran reported to be developing missiles that can reach the U.S.,” noted in U.S. News and World Report.

“North Korea said to be working on missiles that can reach the U.S. mainland,” headlined in National Journal.

If credibility is given to these reports, the need for realistic training for U.S. and allied forces in using air defense systems to take out any incoming missiles has become even more vital.

professionals with PM ITTS is ready to meet that training challenge. Located at Redstone Arsenal in Huntsville, Ala., the Targets Management Office (TMO) has been busy for years fielding aerial targets to hone the skills of not only U.S. Army Soldiers, but also members of other U.S. military services and those of friendly nations.

They employ two major target categories to accomplish this vital mission – High Speed Aerial Targets (HSAT) and Medium Speed Aerial Targets (MSAT).

The HSAT targets include the MQM-107 Streaker and the BQM-34 Firebee, both turbojet-powered drones capable of reaching speeds of up to 575 miles per hour at altitudes of up to 40,000 feet, or about 10,000 feet higher than the average cruising altitude of a 747 commercial aircraft.

The U.S. Army uses the Streaker for testing various surface-to-air missile systems, such as the Stinger and Patriot, while the U.S. Air Force primarily

uses them to practice air-to-air missiles such as the Sidewinder. It is also used to train anti-aircraft artillery crews. And although the Streaker is highly maneuverable and capable of presenting realistic threats to fully stress weapon systems and crews, it can also be used in conjunction with lower cost towed targets. The aircraft can carry radar or infrared tow targets for missile training as well as banners with an enhanced radar signature for gunnery training. It is recoverable via parachute if not shot down.

The Firebee is a remotely piloted, fixed wing, subsonic, turbojet powered, reusable drone. It is used to simulate tactical threats by enemy aircraft and missiles for defense-readiness training, air-to-air combat training, and test and evaluation of weapon systems. It is highly maneuverable and can



U.S. Army Photo/PM ITTS

A BQM-34 Firebee High Speed Aerial Target takes to the sky during a training exercise.

be used alone or to serve as a tug vehicle to pull low-cost tow targets. During flight, the BQM-34 is line-of-sight remotely controlled. It also is recovered via a parachute and reused if not shot down.

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PEO STRI Flight Trainer Instructs “Eye in the Sky” Crews When They Are Grounded

By Rick Gregory, APEO Business Operations Support Staff

A 1930s radio drama used to open with a haunting voice asking and then answering, “Who knows what evil lurks in the hearts of men? The Shadow knows!” The “Shadow” referred to a mythical, invisible avenger of crime.

Though the popular radio show has long aired its last broadcast, the U.S. Army has its own “Shadow” that serves as the eyes and ears for commanders on the ground, allowing them to better determine what evil lurks in the hearts of the enemy beyond their perimeter.

Dubbed the RQ7B Shadow 200, the Tactical Unmanned Aircraft System has logged more than 300,000 flight hours in Iraq and Afghanistan, according to its manufacturer, AAI Corporation. Those missions provided valuable intelligence information to the Soldiers on the ground before they departed on a mission and while they were engaged in combat.

Sgt. Maj. Patrick Ogden, PEO STRI’s senior enlisted advisor, who has served in Somalia and had two combat tours in Iraq, knows firsthand the importance of deploying these “eyes in the sky.”

“They were a valuable asset that everyone wanted,” he said. “There was nothing like having eyes over an objective. If there were troops in contact and I didn’t have a Shadow in the air, I would call a unit who did and ask if they could move their Shadow over our guys. The image could be piped directly into the command center.”

He said that value became readily apparent during his first Iraq tour when the increased use of IEDs got so dangerous that contractors wouldn’t drive north with their rations.

“We couldn’t get rations. The entire division was living on meals-ready-to-eat,” he said. “The commanding general told commanders we had to get 24-hour coverage on those roads. We pushed the Shadows to the limit to do just that to open

up those roads.”

With the Army National Guard making up about seven percent of the deployed forces in Afghanistan, the 380 pound surveillance aircraft have also become an important asset to their units. Currently, Shadows are part of the inventory in National Guard units in 30 states. Training the Shadow Platoons, though, has been a challenge because of limited training time, adverse weather and the restricted air space in locations where the units are located.

That’s where the team in Product Manager for Air and Command Tactical Trainers (PM ACTT) stepped to the plate in 2006 to procure a training device, the Shadow Crew Trainer (SCT), at the request of the Army National Guard.

The SCT, which was first delivered to



U.S. Army Photo

A launch/recovery specialist practices her skills on the Shadow Crew Trainer.



U.S. Army Photo

Members of a Shadow Platoon use the Shadow Crew Trainer to practice launch, operations and recovery skills.

the National Guard in 2009, is a unit-level trainer that provides training positions for seven Soldiers through interactive multimedia instruction. The positions include two air vehicle operators, two payload operators and launch and recovery crew. To date, 19 SCTs have been fielded

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CALLING ALL ATHLETES AND FITNESS ENTHUSIASTS ALIKE

By Kristen A. McCullough, PEO STRI Public Affairs Officer

Whether you dribble, tackle, kick or volley, the SHAPE program has an activity for you. SHAPE, short for STRI Health Awareness Program and Empowerment, has long been the PEO STRI initiative to keep the workforce's minds and bodies active.

The next SHAPE event, the Army/Air Force vs. Navy/Marine Corps basketball challenge, will be held March 8 at 3:30 p.m., at the UCF Education Complex.

"Please set your calendars now to attend this event where the two teams battle each other in this championship-level game over bragging rights for another year," Tony Tolbert, the new SHAPE coordinator, said.

Another SHAPE-sponsored event, the Self-Defense Seminar for Men & Women, will be held March 14 from 12 p.m. to 1 p.m. The instruction will be led by PEO STRI's Sgt. Maj. Pat Ogden on the south side of the De Florez building by the basketball goal.

The annual Army vs. Navy softball game will be played May 31 in conjunction with the NAWCTSD picnic. The location and time are still pending.

"Please come out and take advantage of the opportunities, participate or show your support for all of the various challenges," Tolbert said. He also said that the basketball challenge, self-defense seminar and softball game are only a few of the many events SHAPE has to offer this year.

In addition to the organized team sports, the SHAPE program also offers YMCA gym memberships, which are available to military and federal employees and their family members. Under the contract, five YMCA locations are available for use by PEO STRI

military and civilian employees: downtown Orlando, Oviedo, Blanchard Park, Lake Nona and Winter Park.

Just recently, 27 PEO STRI employees were approved to participate in the FY12 SHAPE Time Off For Fitness program. The six-month plan will allow these employees to use three hours of administrative leave or excused time off per week to participate in an exercise regimen of their choice.

"To all of the [Time Off For Fitness program] participants, the PEO STRI leadership,

and especially the supervisors, I say thank you for having the right attitude for making this program possible because nothing on earth can help a program if the participants or management have the wrong attitudes," Tolbert said.

PEO STRI employees can stay up to date with SHAPE activities through the area wide messages.



U.S. Army Photo/Tony Tolbert

Marcia Kain (left) and Ingrid Neal prepare for the SHAPE-sponsored FY12 Time Out For Fitness Program.

Jeans Day is designated to recycle and dispose of unused material in office spaces.
You are encouraged to dress down in jeans for this day of cleaning.
Look out for more details coming out in an area wide.

Speth, who is currently assigned to the 37th Flight Training Squadron in Columbus, Miss. “It is so realistic that I found myself looking out the window to clear the area for the propellers when the simulator doesn’t even have propellers!”

Adding to the realism of flight in the simulator is the geo-specific database that provides current views of actual airfields and terrain in Afghanistan. Using satellite imagery and in-flight photographs taken by pilots in Afghanistan, the 220-degree wraparound screen that is part of the FTD gives these experienced pilots the feeling they are actually flying in familiar terrain.

“The visuals are spot on,” Jones said. “I could fly at low levels in the simulator through the Afghanistan mountains and it would be very accurate to the real terrain. I can almost recognize certain peaks and airfields. It’s beautiful!”

As the two pilots were heaping praise on the G222 FTD, some of the members of the PEO STRI and contractor teams who worked hard to get the trainer to this level were beaming with pride. One of those is Mike Younce, a project director with PM Air and Command Tactical Trainers (PM ACTT).

“We have a great team in PM ACTT and it’s really good to hear these comments from the subject matter experts,” he said. “We awarded this contract last April and the first part of the training package, the Basic Aviation Training Device (BATD), was delivered in just six months, which met our requirement. The contractor promised us they could do it and they came through.”

The other trainers to be shipped to Afghanistan include the G222 FTD, a G222 Fuselage Load Trainer (FLT) and two Mi-17 FTDs. They will all be delivered by the end of the year.

Jones said the BATD, was a “goldmine” for him and the other instructors when it arrived.

“We recently had some maintenance issues with the actual aircraft and had to stand down the fleet for a period of time,” he said. “Having the BATD allowed us to get in three simulation periods a day. This was very fortunate for them because they were deficient in some emergency procedures which we were able to train very easily and very well on the BATD.”

“There were also a lot of habits we had to help them relearn and adjust as far as emergency procedures.

The BATD allowed us to walk these guys through an emergency procedure, pause the simulator when we needed to explain a point and have them do it again and again,” he said. “It was just like them learning the normal procedures.”

The contractor, Fidelity Technologies Corporation, is equally proud of the end product that they and their subcontractor, Aeronautical Systems Engineering in Odessa, are fielding.

“You can practice everything in the G222 FTD other than actually throwing cargo out the back,” said Jerry Steinman, a program manager with Fidelity. “We have the full database for Afghanistan, so they can practice instrument approach from one airport or landing strip to another during night or day, perform full cockpit procedures and even have the loadmaster do the preflight checklist before the pilot comes in.”

The FTD includes training and testing pilots on every emergency procedure that the manufacturer of the G222 publishes for the aircraft.

“They can train on reacting to everything while in flight from dual engine flameout to hydraulic failure to landing with a flat



U.S. Army photo

The G222 Flight Training Device is taken in for a landing on a mock, but visually accurate airfield in Kabul, Afghanistan.

tire,” Steinman said. “To make it an even more stressful training situation, we can insert adverse conditions such as high winds, thunderstorms, sand storms, fog and other weather elements.”

Speth said the trainers provide a different form of stress for experienced pilots who are reacting to the simulated emergencies and those who are undergoing the training and have less flight time.

“For me, the stress in these simulators is more professional than anything else,” he explained. “You want to do the right thing in the most efficient manner possible. It’s embarrassing when you grab the wrong lever, you wait too long to react or you misdiagnose what was wrong.”

“It also helps knowing that if you screw up that emergency procedure, you’re not going to actually crash,” Jones added.

Speth pointed out that when he was training the Afghanistan pilots on the BATD, they experienced a different type of stress.

“You could see on their faces that there was some real stress involved,” he said. “They wanted to do things right because they are professional pilots, but, not having trained on a simulator before, you could tell the realism

of the trainer was stressing them.”

One major aspect of the FTD that assists the instructors during training, Jones said, is the additional “off-board” instructor operating station that is outside of the simulator.

“It allows us to sit out there and monitor, via camera and audio recording, the interactions of the Afghan crew,” he explained. “Even if they are speaking in their native language we can have an interpreter out there. We can see how they do crew resource management and how they work together to safely fly the aircraft under emergency conditions.”

After final install in Kabul, Fidelity will keep a team of instructors and maintenance personnel onsite to maintain the simulator suite and provide training for operation and upkeep of the simulator.

James Matthew Barrie, a Scottish novelist and creator of Peter Pan, once said “If you cannot teach me to fly, teach me to sing.”

With the assistance of the new G222 flight simulators, Jones and Speth can feel pretty confident they won’t be giving singing lessons to their Afghanistan counterparts anytime soon.

CITIZEN STRI

"February is a short month with a lot to celebrate: Black History Month, the Super Bowl, Valentine's Day and President's Day. What did you do to observe one of these holidays or events?"



"My husband and I hosted our annual Valentine's Day banquet at the Rosen Plaza Hotel for 25 couples. The event is our way of reaching out to the local community to help enrich marital relationships."

- **Michelle R. Burrell**, Acq. Center



"You bet it's a month in which there is a lot to celebrate! My birthday, our wedding anniversary and Valentine's Day all fall within the same week, so I take the liberty to celebrate the entire month by having as much cake, playing as much music and seeing as many friends as I can pack into this

month, to include taking a little time off from work. February is the month of plenty!"

- **Linda Clipp**, PM ITTS

Want your opinion heard? Answer March's Question!

The question is open to the entire workforce.

Daylight Savings Time begins March 11. What do you do with the extra hour of daylight when you get off work?

Send your response to Kristen.McCullough@us.army.mil and put Citizen STRI in the subject line.

The MSAT targets are the MQM-175A and B, which are less powerful and capable than the HSATs, but are also less expensive to procure and operate. Both fly at speeds up to several hundred miles per hour at altitudes of up to 20,000 feet. Various configurations are available to support training and testing events for a variety of weapon systems. The MQM-175A/B are durable, jet powered aircraft that can cost-effectively fill the requirement for a direct kill target. MSAT targets are ground-launched with a pneumatic launcher and can be parachute-recovered and reused.

Soldiers of I Battery, 1st Squadron, 11th Armored Cavalry Regiment recently conducted a Stinger Missile live-fire exercise at the National Training Center. An article from the Fort Irwin Public Affairs Office pointed out the importance of the training to the Soldiers.

"The training gives the Soldiers a chance to fire a live Stinger missile, which is what they all want to do," said 1st Lt. Jacob Ferrara, the executive officer of I Battery. "This training also builds a Soldier's confidence so that they can go out there and conduct their mission, which is to deny enemy air assets and key terrain assets," he added.

"The fleet of HSAT and MSAT are operated and maintained by a Flight Services Project known as Aerial Target Flight Services (ATFS)," said Todd Barks, an aerial target operations specialist with TMO. "The aerial targets are flown at White Sands Missile Range in New Mexico, at the McGregor Range at Fort Bliss, Texas, and other sites within the continental United States and overseas as needed to meet testing and training mission requirements."

The fleet, he said, consists of 130 HSAT targets and 12 in the MSAT inventory. To avoid costly destruction of the aerial vehicles and extend the life of the fleet, intentional missile system fuse delays and software offsets are frequently used. Even with those safeguards, Barks said about 10 vehicles are expended annually.

Steve Moore, TMO's project director for ATFS, said the quantity of aerial targets deployed at any given time is dependent upon the weapon system testing and training events being supported.

"The ATFS, for example, is currently planning multiple deployments," he said. "Some examples include supporting the Missile Defense Agency, the Israeli Air Force, the United Arab Emirates and testing at Eglin Air Force Base in Florida."

He added that while the U.S. Navy and Air Force have their own fleet of target vehicles to support their testing and training events, the Army's HSAT drones have been flown to support specific missions for those services as well.

Not resting on the successes of the past, Barks and Moore said the PM ITTS TMO team is continually reviewing the HSAT and MSAT targets to ensure they are keeping up with the technology in weapons systems being used.

They said aerial platforms used by the U.S. Air Force and Navy are frequently analyzed and the evolving market of unmanned aerial systems are monitored to ensure the fleet of aerial targets meets the challenges of developing weapon systems.

to National Guard units. Five of the remaining nine devices to be fielded under the current contract will be installed into mobile classrooms, allowing the trainers to go where the Soldiers are located. The first mobile classroom will be delivered next month to Camp Blanding, Fla.

Warrant Officer Michael Gray, Jr., a program manager for Unmanned Aircraft Systems (UAS) for the Louisiana Army National Guard, said the SCT provides UAS platoons with a valuable tool to help support their aircrew training program.

“The system gives the unit instructor operators a way to simulate real-world mission sets that their units might face when deployed,” he explained. “It’s a well-rounded training tool that gives units the ability to train on a variety of tasks, including multiple emergency procedures, and allows them to continue training when adverse weather or restricted air space would prevent live flight operations.”

He added that the SCT not only provides unit commanders a way to determine their unit’s readiness level, but it also gives direct and immediate feedback for students and instructors, helping them to realize and overcome deficiencies.

The SCT provides such realistic mission-level training that the U.S. Army Aviation Center Directorate of Simulation granted accreditation to the trainer. The accreditation allows users to log SCT training hours as actual flight hours toward their overall requirements for Shadow training.

Michaeline Kolbicka, PM ACTT’s project lead for the SCT, said they are working to ensure the trainer is keeping current with any changes to the actual aircraft.

“Last July, an Engineering Change Proposal (ECP) was completed to integrate the Multiple Unified Simulation Environment with the SCT,” she said. “This integration allowed the SCT to become concurrent with the aircraft and that helped get the trainer accredited.”

She said the team is currently developing another ECP to enhance the Training Management System, performance



A Soldier performs a preflight check on an RQ7B Shadow 200.

U.S. Army photo

monitoring and after action review for the SCT.

Gray not only has high praise for the SCT, but also PEO STRI’s PM ACTT team that he works with.

“Working with PEO STRI to develop the SCT has been a great experience for our unit,” he said. “They provide great support that makes the SCT easy to operate and maintain.”

HOLIDAYS Events

MAR. 6-8

Conflict Resolution Training

MAR. 8

SHAPE Basketball Challenge

MAR. 13

USA Staffing Lunch & Learn (Managers)

MAR. 14

SHAPE Self-Defense Seminar

MAR. 14

USA Staffing Lunch & Learn (Employees)

MAR. 15

Drug and Alcohol/Substance Abuse
and Suicides Training

MAR. 17

St. Patrick's Day

MAR. 28-30

Fiscal Law Training

INSIDE PEO STRI

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TEAM ORLANDO



U.S. Army PEO STRI Photo/Doug Schaub

Foreign military officers who were selected by the chief of staff of the U.S. Army to attend the Army War College as part of the International Fellows Program visit PEO STRI Feb. 8. The group received a PEO STRI overview, an orientation to foreign military sales and product demonstrations of the Common Driver Trainer and Virtual Battlespace 2.



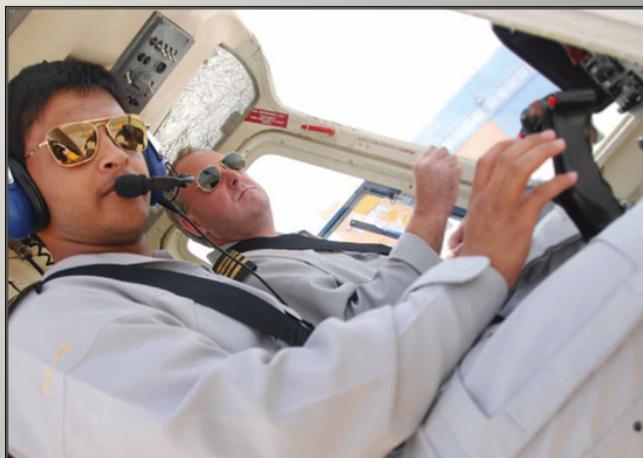
U.S. Army PEO STRI Photo/Doug Schaub

Terry Edwards, SES, director of the Office of the Chief Systems Engineer at the Assistant Secretary of the Army for Acquisition, Logistics and Technology, visits PEO STRI Feb. 17 for technical briefings across the organization.



U.S. Army Photo/Fort Rucker Public Affairs

Chief Warrant Officer Cameron Nowell shows his wife how to fly the simulated TH-67 "Creek" helicopter during Fort Rucker's third annual Spouse Day Feb. 3. More than 60 Army spouses got a taste of the training that their husbands and wives go through, including hands-on instruction at Warrior Hall, which is the largest part of PEO STRI's Flight School XXI Simulation Services Program.



U.S. Army Photo/PM Field OPS

Two Afghan students attending the Afghan National Army Air Corp Pilot Training Program, a contract under PM Field OPS, completed their first solo flight in February. The program has been singled out by the NATO Training Mission Afghanistan as the "centerpiece training program" to accomplish Afghan pilot training objectives.

IN PHOTOS