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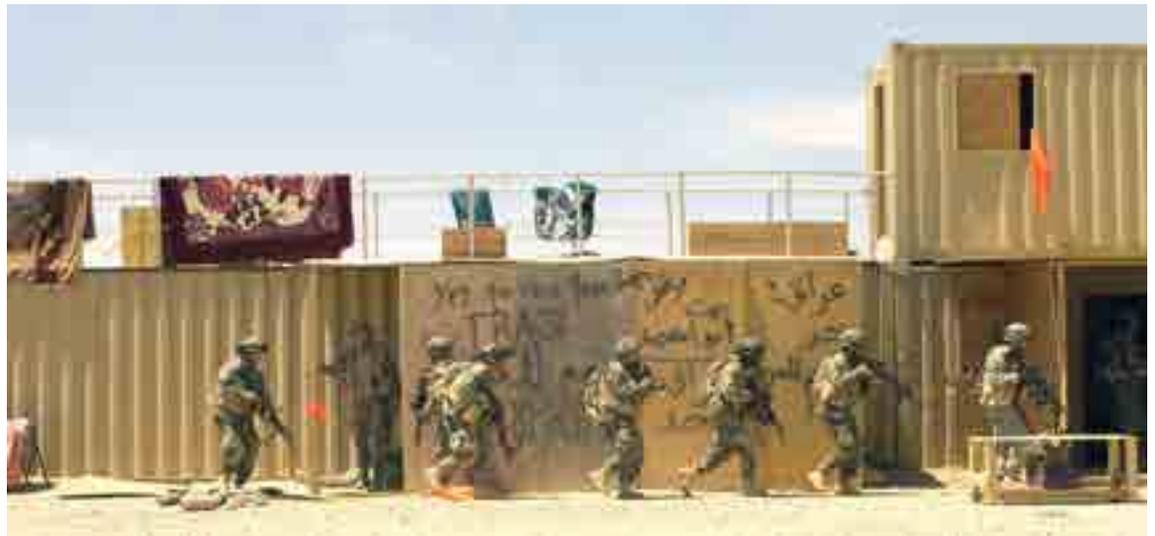
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### WORTH REPEATING

“

A lot of these Soldiers have deployed before and done this type of thing in real life, and they say it's just like the real thing. We planned this system for that reason. At a minimum, the Soldiers will receive muscle memory for everything that needs to be done on mission. In a real vehicle, if a Soldier has to hit one button before another to make something work, then that is the way it is in the simulator. It was designed to encompass every last detail of a real route clearance mission.”

— Sgt. 1st Class Jawn Downing, lead action officer for Fort Leonard Wood's Virtual Clearance Training Suite



## PEO STRI AWARDS CONTRACT TO MODERNIZE COMBAT TRAINING CENTERS' INSTRUMENTATION SYSTEMS

By Rick Gregory, APEO Business Operations Support Staff

PEO STRI recently awarded a contract to modernize the instrumentation systems that have been in use for more than a decade at the National Training Center at Fort Irwin, Calif., and the Joint Readiness Training Center at Fort Polk, La.

“The Combat Training Centers (CTC) have the vital mission of providing a realistic operational environment for brigade combat teams and below when conducting mission rehearsals for their upcoming deployments,” said Andrew Echols, the project director for the Combat Training Center Instrumentation System (CTC-IS) Range Communications Systems. “The current systems’ subcomponents for voice and radio data are no longer in production and will reach their life cycle sometime between now and 2015. It’s critical that we modernize

now to keep the fidelity required to produce a quality after action review.”

He said the upcoming modernization will not only provide a much-needed technological update to the existing CTC-IS, but it will also save on training time and costs.

He added that with the current system they have to place personnel in the field when the unit rotations to the CTCs start so they can get all of the equipment and personnel listed on the battle roster.

“They are out there in the field with clipboards and a radio so they can write the information down and then radio it back to the tactical operation center. The modernized system will save days when setting up the rotation battle rosters because it will be automated through using barcodes on the Multiple Integrated Laser

Engagement Systems that are worn by Soldiers and placed on equipment and vehicles.”

Along with saving training time, maintenance personnel will also find more time on their hands thanks to the modernization.

“Under the current system, maintenance personnel have to diagnose the problem at the tactical operations system and then send folks out to the site to fix it,” Echols said. “When the modernization is in place, they will be able to get a real-time data on the status or health of the range communication system so teams in the field can be proactive in fixing the issue.”

The savings comes in, he said, by reaping the benefits of using commercial products in the modernization process.

“When the public sector moves to more advanced digital capabilities, the CTCs will also

*Continued on page 8*

# From the Desk of the DPEO: Continued Success is in Your Hands

By Rob Reyenga, Deputy Program Executive Officer for PEO STRI

The PEO STRI leadership team understands that the Army is in a period of transition, moving away from an era of sustained combat operations toward the Army of 2020, one that's mission tailored and regionally aligned.

Strategic decisions being made at the "Big Army" level have direct implications on our operations at PEO STRI. We're all aware of the guidance coming from the Department of the Army on sequestration, reduced resources and tough choices. The coming months will be challenging as we reevaluate ourselves in this resource-constrained environment while the demands of our customers remain the same.



U.S. Army PEO STRI  
Photo/Doug Schaub

**Rob Reyenga**  
Deputy Program Executive  
Officer for PEO STRI

## STRATEGIC ALIGNMENT

What does the word "alignment" mean to you? To an infantryman, it might mean the alignment of his sights on his M4 Carbine. To a mechanic, it might mean the alignment of the tires on a car. Webster defines alignment as the "proper positioning or state of adjustment of parts in relation to each other."

But, what does it mean to PEO STRI as an organization?

## MISSION FIRST

At a recent senior leader meeting, our PMs, APEOs, PARC and chief counsel determined that in order for us to perform our mission through this era of increasing resource constraints to the degree that the Army has come to expect, we must take a hard look at our organizational alignment.

While we're laser-focused on our mission – which reads, "acquiring and sustaining training, testing and simulation solutions in support of the Nation" – we understand that now, more than ever, we must invest in you, our people. Day-in and day-out, you are the ones that make up the acquisition teams who deliver comprehensive, cost-effective solutions for the Warfighter.

## CUSTOMER FOCUSED

In the coming months, I want to introduce you to an "Alignment Framework" that the senior leaders across the organization are using to help shape the decisions we make, the policies and processes we put in place, and the work that we take on in the coming years.

It's a tool to help us pull our strategy, people, processes and customers' needs together for better alignment. And the key enabler to make that happen is you.

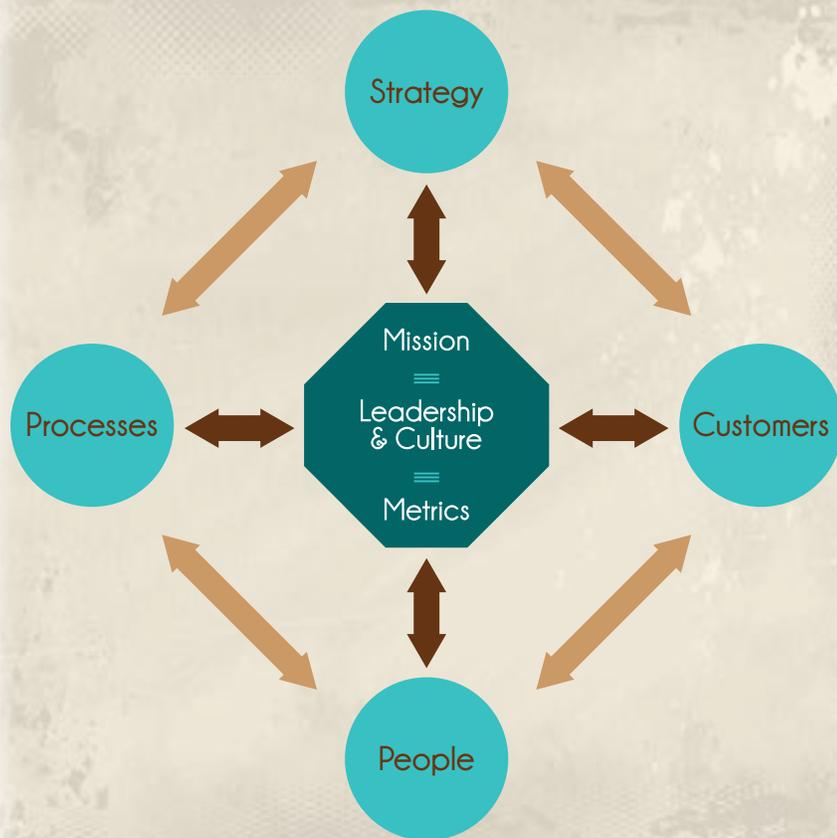
## A TEAM EFFORT

It is important for you to understand this framework and always ask yourself, "Is this enabling the acquisition teams in PEO STRI to deliver the very best training and testing capabilities for our customers?"

For the answer to be yes, we must all be aligned: PMs, the Acquisition Center and PEO staff.

In the next article, I'll layout our plans for gathering feedback from our customers in order to better align our business processes with our customers.

## Alignment Framework



U.S. Army Graphic/PEO STRI

PEO STRI has adopted the alignment model described in the book, "The Power of Alignment: How Great Companies Stay Centered and Accomplish Extraordinary Things," by George Labovitz and Victor Rosansky.

# New Range System Passes Test

By Mike Casey, Combined Arms Center-Training Public Affairs Officer

A new Location of Miss and Hit (LOMAH) electronic shot detection and location system recently passed its Government Acceptance Test (GAT).

The LOMAH system tracks rounds fired on or near targets to support Basic Rifle Marksmanship (BRM) training strategies. The new system improves rifle range efficiency, increases training effectiveness and saves time for commanders and Soldiers.

The LOMAH uses acoustic sensors to detect hits or misses on or within a two-meter radius of a target. Then sensors at the target emplacement relay the results to an android-based tablet at the firing point. LOMAH automatically triangulates the shot group to provide the shooter with corrective data.

“LOMAH will provide immediate feedback to Soldiers to help them improve their shooting skills,” said Matt Golden, chief of the Targetry Development Team for TCM-Live at Joint Base Langley-Eustis, Va.

In the GAT at Fort Benning, Ga., and Fort Leonard Wood, Mo., the system successfully detected hits and misses for targets at 75 meters, 175 meters and 300 meters.

At Fort Benning, Charlie Company, 3rd Battalion, 81st Armor Regiment provided support during all phases of testing and was instrumental in its success. The company is also the sponsor for the range and will continue to be actively involved with the LOMAH system as the range cadre for Armor Regiment and Cavalry One Station Unit Training BRM.

The LOMAH system is designed for the M16/M4 series weapons with iron sights, back-up iron sights, close combat optic or advanced combat optical gun sights. It can be used for BRM and Advanced Rifle Marksmanship (ARM).

The test also demonstrated how LOMAH makes rifle ranges more efficient. An active-duty platoon from Charlie Troop, 3rd Squadron, 1st Cavalry Regiment, 3rd Infantry Division took part in the LOMAH GAT at Fort Benning.

The platoon used the LOMAH range to conduct three marksmanship tasks on one range. Tasks included: grouping and zeroing (at distance), practicing qualification and qualification versus using three different ranges to complete the task of zeroing (at 25 meters), and confirming zero at distance (normally conducted on Known Distance Range) and qualifying.

All tasks were accomplished using standard



U.S. Army Photo

**A trooper from Charlie Troop, 3rd Squadron, 1st Cavalry Regiment, 3rd Infantry Division uses the new Location of Miss and Hit system on the Fowler Range at Fort Benning, Ga.**



U.S. Army PEO STRI Photo/PM TRADE

**PM TRADE's target modernization team conducts a Location of Miss and Hit targetry demonstration at Joint Base Langley-Eustis, Va., Feb. 5 for Brig. Gen. Mike Lundy, deputy commanding general of Combined Arms Center-Training.**

qualification targets.

“LOMAH will save time by allowing Soldiers to qualify more quickly,” Golden said.

For example, it would take a unit three days and three ranges to zero at 25 meters, confirm zero on the Known Distance (KD) Range and qualify on an automated record fire range or modified record fire range.

The LOMAH system embedded on a qualification range will allow all three tasks to be completed on one range. Soldiers move more quickly through the tasks because each lane is run independently and shooters can progress to

the next task. The LOMAH range has no need for a detail to raise and lower targets to show shooters their performance as currently required on KD ranges.

This fiscal year, the new LOMAH system will be added to Fort Jackson, S.C.

The program is overseen by TRADOC Capability Manager-Live (TCM-Live), which is the Army agent for the Sustainable Range Program and other programs. The materiel developer for LOMAH is the Project Manager for Training Devices (PM TRADE), the live training office at PEO STRI.

# First Flight of the “Penguin” for OHISS

By Bobby Ryan, PM ITTS Systems Engineer

PM ITTS’ Objective Helicopter Icing Spray System (OHISS) program reached a significant landmark when the “penguin” was lifted onto its test stand for the first time. The penguin, as it is called, is the CH-47D fuselage, a component of the OHISS project used for ground testing.

When the fuselage was first delivered to the OHISS’ prime contractor, many speculated about what the object was. The final consensus was that the fuselage was actually a submarine. The name penguin stuck because, much like the fuselage, the bird is flightless, but swims well.

In the coming months, the penguin will be outfitted with a structural boom that will hang below the fuselage for which water nozzles will be installed. When the OHISS is fielded, these nozzles will be used to spray water and create a cloud that can be used to test icing effects on aircraft. By using the test stand, the contractor will be able to statically install, deploy and recover the OHISS Spray Boom, and provide initial test and stress data to the Aviation Engineering Directorate without the risking a fleet CH-47F aircraft doing initial test flights.

The method will also be a cost-saving measure since structural, vibration and boom demonstration tests can be conducted at the prime contractor’s site in Columbus, Ohio, without



U.S. Army PEO STRI Photo/PM ITTS

**The “penguin,” a CH-47D fuselage, gets lifted onto the test stand for the first time in Columbus, Ohio, as part of the Objective Helicopter Icing Spray System project.**

spending money to ship the boom to Redstone Test Center in Huntsville, Ala. The OHISS will require extensive testing on the ground before it can be cleared for flight, and the height of the test stand will allow for easy deployment and retraction of the boom, which at full extension is

approximately 50 feet long. Using the test stand, the penguin will serve as a risk reduction tool when integrating the OHISS Cloud Generation Boom into the CH-47 airframe, and allow the contractors to quickly and efficiently address any issues that arise during tests.

## ‘Attitude’ Survey Now Open to DA Civilian Workforce

By Hank Minitrez, U.S. Army News

The Army Civilian Attitude Survey, the Army’s primary attitude and opinion poll of its DA civilian workforce, is open by email invitation worldwide.

The online survey, which opened Feb. 3, aims to confidentially tackle tough questions on job satisfaction, performance management and other topics. To date, more than 40,000 civilian employees have responded to the survey.

“A survey is one of the few ways a commander can gauge the pulse of what’s going on in their command workforce,” said Murray Mack, from the Office of the Assistant G-1 for Civilian Personnel. “Surveys really fill the need for reliable information.”

The survey has been administered every few years since 1977. In the past, the Army could only poll a small random sample of the civilian workforce due to the cost of survey administration. Through recent technology, the entire Army civilian workforce, including foreign nationals – more than 250,000 personnel – are



U.S. Army Photo/C. Todd Lopez

**The Army Civilian Attitude Survey, the Army’s primary attitude and opinion poll of its Department of the Army civilian workforce, is open by email invitation worldwide.**

now invited to participate via the Army Training Requirements and Resources System survey tool.

Survey feedback reports are prepared for every Army organization that contains at least 50 people with at least 10 people responding. The reports will be distributed approximately six weeks following the end of the survey administration period, on or about March 31, 2013.

Mack expects a high response level this year due to civilian workforce concerns such as the impact of pending budget reductions and the sequestration. While the timing of the survey may not be the best, gathering this information will be beneficial for employees and the Army, he said.

While the answers about employees’ work environments may give commanders insight into opinions, it is up to commanders and senior leaders to make changes when necessary. Leaders often use the information gathered from the surveys to hold focus groups with their employees to obtain additional information.

“A survey can’t tell you why people responded the way they did; it will only tell you how they responded,” Mack said.

The survey has a core set of questions in order to track employee trends over time, but questions pertaining to current issues are added with each survey administration, such as telework and alternative work schedules.



# Game-based Simulator Prepares Soldiers for Culturally Sensitive Meetings

By Rick Gregory, Business Operations Office Support Staff

Imagine going to a meeting set up on your Microsoft Outlook calendar and you are told to abide by a list of meeting parameters.

“Arrive on time, but expect to wait.”

“Speak only when spoken to and do not discuss anything specific until refreshments and small talk have been offered.”

“Be sure to inquire as to how things are going in the lives of the attendees.”

“Do not shake hands with attendees of the opposite gender.”

“Once a relationship is established at the meeting, expect same-gender hugs or even three kisses.”

Those meeting parameters are probably enough to cause most people to keep their Outlook “Out of Office” message active.

They are actually just a small part of the cultural awareness that Army officers have to become acutely aware of when conducting negotiation meetings with tribal leaders in Afghanistan. One seemingly insignificant breach of the cultural etiquette during the meetings can send the negotiations into a tailspin and set the much-needed bilateral cooperation on a reverse course. Negotiation skills are critical to Army officers in Afghanistan as they spend hours with tribal leaders sipping tea while they discuss a range of issues that, when handled properly, can be even more effective in the war efforts than engaging the enemy in combat.

As pointed out in a *USA Today* article titled, “The Army’s secret weapon: negotiation,” an alliance between local tribal leaders and the U.S. military helped drive Al Qaeda from Ramadi, Iraq in 2006. It was a turning point in the war.

While in-class training is available to help prepare Soldiers who may be faced with negotiation tasks on upcoming deployments, PEO STRI fields a game-based computer simulation called the Bilateral Negotiation Trainer (BiLAT) that provides users a practice environment for conducting bilateral meetings and negotiations in a cultural context.

Leslie Dubow, PEO STRI’s project director for the Games for Training program of record, said BiLAT has two applications that combine to provide the user with negotiations and culture training – BiLAT AIDE and ELECT BiLAT. ELECT is an acronym for Enhanced Learning Environments with Creative Technologies.



U.S. Army Graphic

**The Bilateral Negotiation Trainer is a game-based system designed to aid Army officers in rehearsing for culturally sensitive meetings and negotiations.**

“BiLAT AIDE is an hour-long Microsoft PowerPoint presentation that provides the users with the principles and procedures of cultural-based negotiations,” she explained. “The videos embedded in the presentation demonstrate several scenarios where actors demonstrate good and bad negotiation preparation, planning and execution. It’s basically the primer before going on to ELECT BiLAT.”

Once logged in, ELECT BiLAT presents the option for the user to select from any of seven unique scenarios, Dubow said.

“After selecting the scenario, the user will be given the mission objective, such as building better relationships with the tribal counterparts. They are then provided the names and a brief background on a few key local individuals who the user can choose to meet with to conduct the bilateral negotiations that relate to the mission objective,” she explained.

From there, the BiLAT user is presented with several options before going straight into the meeting with the selected individual.

They are given an opportunity to conduct

research from a variety of sources to assist in building a meeting preparation sheet; taking a cultural quiz to earn additional time to accomplish the mission; selecting and practicing with a computer-generated (avatar) interpreter; or seeing the unit executive officer to help build meeting actions and conduct a rehearsal. The user can choose any or all of the options or simply choose to go straight into the meeting.

Once into the actual meeting with the selected local leaders, the user must establish a relationship and be mindful of the characters’ cultural sensitivities. Negotiations can go well or poorly based on how the user interacts with the avatars.

“After the meeting has concluded, the user receives feedback during an after-action review on their performance,” Dubow said. “This process is repeated until the user is able to meet their mission objectives through effective bilateral negotiations with all of the key local individuals associated with the chosen scenario.”

BiLAT is available to CAC or AKO users via the login at <https://milgaming.army.mil>.

## BILATERAL TRAINING IS A MULTILATERAL EFFORT

BiLAT is a collaboration between the University of Southern California’s Institute for Creative Technologies, U.S. Army Research Institute for the Behavioral and Social Sciences, U.S. Army Research Laboratory Human Research and Engineering Directorate and U.S. Army Research Laboratory’s Simulation and Training Technology Center.



Business Operations Office employees enjoy their first place ranking during the BOO holiday party Dec. 14 at the Oviedo Bowling Center.



Col. Sharlene Donovan of PM ITTS spends time with her staff during the organization's Christmas luncheon and gift exchange.



PM CATT employees participate in a "Best Christmas Tree" contest during their holiday celebrations.

# HOLIDAY CE AROUND



PM TRADE employees celebrate the holidays during a Dec. 13 gathering at the Holiday Inn.



Rob Miller, Jean Burmester and Mollie Graham get into the holiday spirit during the Project Support Group's holiday lunch at the Mellow Mushroom.



Michele G. enjoy lunch during the holiday lun



PM ITTS employees celebrate the holidays together Dec. 7 over lunch and a gift exchange.



Business Operations Office employees play a round of "Holiday Scatagories" during the BOO Ugly Sweater Party.

# CELEBRATIONS

PEO STRI



Moe Reshad of PM CATT dresses festive for the organization's holiday luncheon.



The PM ConSim team gathers for a holiday photo in Warfighter Park.



A team from PM TRADE distribute homemade cookies at the Veterans Home Medical Facility Dec. 11, marking the second consecutive year they spread "sweet" holiday cheer to military vets.



Mellente (left) and Traci Jones at the Mellow Mushroom Project Support Group's luncheon.



PM ConSim celebrates the holidays with a Dec. 19 potluck meal in Partnership III.



U.S. Army Photos



## INSTRUMENTATION SYSTEMS

*continued from cover*

transition to those capabilities with no cost to the government,” he explained. “Also, the sustainment costs of having multiple networks will be reduced when we field common subsystems on one network at each CTC.”

With the modernization, each Soldier participating in the mission rehearsal will be equipped a smartphone. This will not only provide a substantial savings, but will also increase the ability for information sharing and tracking.

Echols pointed out that

by having the smartphones, Soldiers will not only be able to communicate by traditional means, but they will also be able to send and receive text message, pictures and videos.

“The phones also represent a big savings when having to replace them when compared to the radios,” he added. “The phones can be replaced for a few hundred dollars each while the radios cost thousands of dollars apiece. As well, there will be a cost avoidance from not having to have the infrastructure to support the radio systems.”

## ACCEPTING NOMINATIONS NOW

for outstanding members of the Army acquisition workforce

U.S. Army Acquisition Support Center presents



### What is Faces of the Force?

**FACES OF THE FORCE** is a biweekly online feature providing an opportunity to highlight members of the Army acquisition workforce. It is produced by the U.S. Army Acquisition Support Center Strategic Communication Division. Every other week, USAASC features a Soldier or civilian currently serving in a variety of AL&T disciplines.

### Who is eligible?

Any AL&T Soldier or civilian who deserves recognition for what they do every day.

### How do I nominate someone?

Request a nomination form from the PEO STRI Public Affairs Office at [Public\\_Affairs@peostri.army.mil](mailto:Public_Affairs@peostri.army.mil). The PEO STRI Public Affairs Office will send the nominations to USAASC for consideration.

### What happens next?

Once a Soldier or civilian is selected, the USAASC Strategic Communication Division will coordinate with the selectee's PAO to clarify any information provided in the nomination form or to obtain additional details. Additionally, USAASC will request a photo of the individual and a 20-minute window of availability during which the selectee can conduct a phone interview with a member of the USAASC STRATCOM team. During the interview, the individual will be asked a few follow up questions to those outlined below. Email interviews can also be accommodated. After the PAO approves the final designed product, it will be posted to the front page of the USAASC website, <http://asc.army.mil>, and Facebook page.

**ACCEPTING NOMINATIONS NOW**

## HOLIDAYS & EVENTS

March 7 .....	Town Hall Meeting
March 8 .....	Brig. Gen. Espailat's Pinning Ceremony
March 8 .....	SHAPE Basketball Game
March 10 .....	Daylight Savings Time
March 17 .....	St. Patrick's Day
March 31 .....	Easter
April 11 .....	Diversity Day
April 12 .....	Org Day
April 18 .....	Jeans Day
April 23 .....	Earth Day

## INSIDE<sup>PEO</sup>STR<sup>I</sup>

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U.S. Army Photo

Soldiers from the 157th Infantry Brigade, First Army Division East train in the Dismounted Soldier Training System.

## Virtual Training Puts the ‘Real’ in Realistic Environment

By Maj. Penny Zamora, 157th Infantry Brigade Public Affairs

In a warehouse looking much like a laser tag game room, nine Soldiers gear up with flip down goggle mounts, sensors strapped to their arms and legs, and each carries a computer-enhanced weapon system. Just five years ago, this scenario may have only been seen in a video game. Today, virtual training environments are a reality.

The Dismounted Soldier Training System, or DSTS, and Engagement Skills Trainer 2000 are two virtual training tools that are quickly becoming the norm for Soldiers of the 157th Infantry Brigade, First Army Division East, in training deploying units at Camp Atterbury Joint Maneuver Training Center, Ind.

“One of the best parts of the DSTS is we can create any operational environment, for our training in a virtual environment. It does not replace training, but it can add to it. We can bring the terrain of Afghanistan to the Soldier. It’s hard to imagine a mountainous terrain in Indiana, but the DSTS can create it,” said Sgt. 1st Class Aaron Hammond, Operations, 157th Infantry Brigade, First Army Division East.

Hammond and his team recently participated in a DSTS session to learn the capabilities offered at the Camp Atterbury Joint Maneuver Training Center virtual simulation centers. Geared up and ready to engage in a building entry exercise, the nine-man squad immediately encountered and reacted to enemy fire. With one member

quickly disabled, the team had to quickly adjust tactics, techniques and procedures, and continue their mission.

“Providing the most realistic and relevant training is the benchmark for success in First Army Division East when training Soldiers for worldwide deployments. Our job is to replicate situations in which the Soldier will face and to create an environment to rehearse repetitively at the squad or team level,” said Capt. Marcus Long, 157th Infantry Brigade training officer.

Each Soldier stands on a four-foot diameter rubber pad. This pad is the center of a 10-foot by 10-foot training area for each squad member, and the pad ensures Soldiers remain in a specific area within the training suite. Soldiers can see and hear the virtual environment and also communicate with members of the squad using a helmet-mounted display with headphone/microphone set.

“A Soldier uses his body to perform maneuvers, such as walking or throwing a hand grenade, by physically making those actions. The sensors capture the Soldier’s movements, and those movements are translated to control the Soldier’s avatar within the simulation,” explained Matthew Roell, DSTS operator.

With a few computer commands, operators reset the virtual environment. This time the

squad encounters enemy fire and a mortar attack. The squad calls for and receives close air support and successfully negotiates the building entry task.

“Each unit that comes through Camp Atterbury cannot receive close air support or call for artillery fire in live training, but we can create any simulated operational environment, desert or jungle, with any weapons system and any number of enemy forces with a few key strokes,” said Brandon Roell, DSTS technician.

“This simulated training is the future of training. The DSTS allows a Soldier to wear the simulation instead of sitting inside of a simulator,” said Roell.

As with any exercise, the after-action review, or AAR, is a critical step in helping units identify strengths and weaknesses. The DSTS provides a complete digital playback of a scenario from several vantage points. The operator can switch the playback from a third person view or worldview. During the AAR, First Army Division East trainer/mentors use the different views to illustrate specific actions.

“Looking at each type of view, leaders can evaluate individual movement and actions, as well as the group as a whole. We cannot get this in-depth and multifaceted view during an

*Continued on page 11*

# CITIZEN STRI QUESTION:

PEO STRI was recognized in November 2012 by Florida's Blood Centers for their substantial blood donations over the past few years. Why do you think it's important to donate blood?



**JILL EDWARDS,  
ACQUISITION CENTER**

"When I first started donating over 25 years ago, I just felt good about being able to give back to my community. My dad battled leukemia for three and a half years, and regularly received blood and

platelets before recently passing away. This was my way of helping him. He required more units than I care to think about, but I feel like the blood I donated helped someone else in need, possibly in a similar situation. So as long as I can, I will continue to donate blood in hopes of helping someone live longer."



**MELISSA RUPING,  
PM TRADE**

"I have the rarest type of blood - AB Negative - and less than one percent of the population has this type of blood. When my son was born, we found out that his blood type is the same as mine. From

that day forward, I started giving blood just in case he ever needed it. This is my stewardship as a Christian, I thank God every day that he has not needed it; and I'm happy that I have helped save severe burn and hemorrhage patients."



**HAL SPAULDING,  
PSG**

Giving blood is easy, and when people need blood, it is often a desperate need. A small effort on my part as a donor can mean a lot on the receiving end.

Want your opinion heard? Answer March's Question!  
The question is open to the entire workforce.

With sequestration and continuing resolution affecting our budget, and the possibility of a civilian furlough, what keeps your professional morale high?

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

# Potential Lean Six Sigma Black Belts Meet Required Training, Start Improvement Projects

By John Kirch, PEO STRI Chief Financial Manager and Lean Six Sigma Deployment Director



Credit: U.S. Army PEO STRI Photo/Doug Schaub

PEO STRI's first class of prospective Army Lean Six Sigma (LSS) black belts completed the required four-week training session Jan. 18 and began working on projects to improve business practices across the organization. The black belt candidates are pictured with the course instructors, Tom Wallace and Deanne Snodgrass, Master Black Belt Chris Rozycki and the LSS Development Director John Kirch.

PEO STRI hosted its first Army Lean Six Sigma (LSS) black belt training course that wrapped up Jan. 18. The four-week LSS Black Belt course teaches and prepares individuals to implement the principles, practices and techniques to achieve breakthrough business improvements for their organizations and across the PEO.

Participants included candidates from both the Army and the Marines, and both civilian and military members: Army Maj. Freeman Bonnette, Hector Colon, Charlie Goodwin, Jason Graham, Michael Landers, Army Maj. Tomas Monaghan, Army Sgt. Maj. Patrick Ogden, Nealie Page, Abdul Siddiqui, Army Maj. Michael P. Smith and Joann Wesley

Each black belt candidate is trained to identify opportunities for improvement within the PEO by using of a large number of Lean Six Sigma methodologies and applying the correct tools and techniques to their Lean Six Sigma project.

After completing the training, each black belt candidate will lead a Lean Six Sigma project to achieve significant financial and/or operational improvements for the PEO. Each black belt candidate is mentored by the PEO's Master Black Belt, Chris Rozycki, who will guide them through the five stage "Define-Measure-Analyze-Improve-Control" process.

Upon completion, the project documentation is sent to the Army's Office of Business Transformation where the project is reviewed for adherence to the required use of Lean Six Sigma tools and principles, and verification that the projects' financial and/or operational benefits have been substantiated by an Army Resource Manager.

Upon successful completion of both the training and project, the candidates will receive the Army Black Belt certification and may lead future projects and mentor green belt candidates.

# PEO STRI Selected as Only DoD Agency in Local 'Best of the Best' Rankings

By Kristen A. McCullough, U.S. Army PEO STRI Public Affairs Officer

Central Florida's simulation and training industry has helped to sustain the local economy throughout the past few years of economic downturn.

An article published Feb. 25 in the Orlando Business Journal by associate managing editor Bill Orben cites that, Florida-wide, the modeling and simulation industry employs approximately 27,000 people with an average annual salary of more than \$69,000, resulting in an estimated statewide annual economic impact of \$4.8 billion. The 100 local modeling and simulation companies employ approximately 12,500 people and bring a combined revenue of \$3 billion annually into the local economy.

The figures reveal a clear picture of the economic magnitude that the Department of Defense's modeling and simulation agencies bring to the greater Orlando area. PEO STRI's economic impact was also validated when the organization was named a top modeling, simulation and training agency in the Orlando Business Journal's (OBJ) 2013 Book of Lists.

"These lists are essential in providing a quick but thorough resource that allows you to know at a glance who the business leaders are in Central Florida, what they specialize in and how well they performed, as well as

## ENVIRONMENT *continued from page 9*

actual live training exercise. We can even have the operator bookmark or tag a specific time so we can take a closer look during the AAR," Long said.

First Army Division East trainers also incorporate the Engagement Skills Trainer 2000, or EST 2000, into mobilization training.

During individual and sustainment marksmanship training, Soldiers fire weapons multiple times while the computer tracks their progress and provides multiple statistics. Soldiers wanting to improve accuracy find this especially helpful. This simulation system allows Soldiers to gain familiarity with several types of weapons with minimal resources and no expenditure of ammunition.

"Nuances that cannot be seen by the eye affecting accuracy, such as the minute direction of pull on the trigger, are collected and analyzed by the trainer," Hammond said.

"It feels like firing a real M4. When firing



Photo Courtesy of the Orlando Business Journal

**Dr. Jim and Sharon Blake attend the 28th Annual Book of Lists reception in recognition of PEO STRI being named in the 2013 Book of Lists, the only Department of Defense entity to attain this honor.**

their top officials and contact information," Ann Sonntag, OBJ's publisher, wrote in the publication's "Letter from the Publisher."

Dr. Jim Blake, in honor of PEO STRI's recognition of being named in the Book of Lists, attended the 28th Annual Book of Lists reception.

"As Congress looks at the Department of Defense for budget cuts, we believe Central

Floridians depend on PEO STRI and its sister services for both economic stability and saving taxpayer dollars through the promulgation of simulated training," Blake said. "I believe PEO STRI's inclusion in the OBJ's 2013 Book of Lists is another notch on our belt of accomplishments, in which every token of success can be attributed to our world class workforce."

on the zero range, the target is brought up on the screen to show the results. If the shot group is tight, the computer makes the adjustment to zero the weapon. If the shot group is not tight, it gives us mentor/trainers the opportunity to observe the Soldier to make sure they are practicing good, basic marksmanship techniques," said Sgt. 1st Class Robert P. Braun, with the Operations Section, 157th Infantry Brigade.

Soldiers can progress to Squad/Fire Team Collective Tasks and Judgmental Use of Force scenarios to hone basic marksmanship skills. These two scenarios allow Soldiers to engage targets while working as a team. Once Soldiers gain proficiency, they progress to the actual live fire range.

Each unit must understand the different simulation capabilities and limitations before scheduling. For example, the DSTS cannot help with basic marksmanship techniques; it is designed to enhance squad and team tactics,

while the EST 2000 can specifically aid in improving marksmanship.

"It's our job to train Soldiers at the lowest level. The DSTS and EST 2000 give leaders and squads a chance to really look at their tactics, techniques and procedures in a safe, but realistic environment. Really, the number of scenarios the operators can create are unlimited," said Hammond.

Entering the realm of the virtual environment is no longer a futurist vision. With the many different simulations ranging from vehicle familiarization to fully immersive combat training scenarios, First Army Division East trainers ensure Soldiers are responsive and prepared for combatant commanders.

"Here at Camp Atterbury, we've only just scratched the surface of incorporating simulation trainers for deploying units. As we familiarize more with these systems, our training capabilities also improve," Long said.

# TEAM ORLANDO IN PHOTOS



*U.S. Army PEO STRI Photo/  
Events Management Office*

John Daniele, the acting assistant program executive officer for customer support who is responsible for PEO STRI's Foreign Military Sales, facilitates a capabilities presentation Feb. 20 to representatives of the NATO/Allied Command Transition Office attached to the Joint Staff in Suffolk, Va. Foreign military officers representing Italy, Finland, Germany, Sweden, Hungary, Romania, Czech Republic, France, Poland, Turkey, Korea, Japan, Jordan and Morocco attended the discussion, as did U.S. military leaders from the Joint Staff including Brig. Gen. Bradley A. Becker and Thomas C. Irwin, SES.



*U.S. Army Photo*

PEO STRI engineers volunteer as judges in the Seminole County Science Fair Feb. 9, along with engineering and psychology experts from the Army Research Laboratory's Human Research Directorate Simulation and Training Technology Center, Naval Air Warfare Center Training Systems Division, and Central Florida Science Technology, Engineering and Mathematics council. The team of volunteers judged 70 high school projects, in which one received the top Army medal and four others receiving honorable mention. Ten of the top projects advance to the Florida State Science Fair, and three others will represent Seminole County at the International Science Fair, both competitions taking place this spring.



*U.S. Army Photo*

The Army Acquisition Executive Heidi Shyu, assistant secretary of the Army for Acquisition, Logistics and Technology, visits Camp Buehring in January. While there, she received an overview of PEO STRI's mission in Kuwait, briefing on the Warfighter FOCUS contract and tour of the training village from Tom DeLoach, PEO STRI's customer service representative based in Kuwait.



*Courtesy Photo*

Jill Biden, Ph.D., wife of Vice President Joe Biden, receives a demonstration of the Reconfigurable Vehicle Tactical Trainer Feb. 2 during her visit to Grafenwoehr, Germany. While at U.S. Army Garrison Grafenwoehr, Biden also read to children at the USO, spoke with teachers at the Grafenwoehr Elementary School, visited with military families and lunched with Soldiers at the dining facility. As both the second lady and a military mom, Biden said she is dedicated to creating awareness and spearheading support for military families both in the U.S. and those stationed and deployed overseas.



*Courtesy Photo*

A ribbon-cutting ceremony is hosted in January for the new Flight School XXI CH-47F flight simulator at Warrior Hall in Daleville, Ala.



*U.S. Army PEO STRI Photo/PM ITTS*

PM ITTS' Targets Management Office (TMO) receives multiple accolades from Redstone Arsenal's Army Contracting Command (ACC) in a Feb. 1 ceremony. Mary Dickens, ACC executive director, presented Alvin Brown with the ACC Competition Award for TMO's sustained efforts to provide the most cost-effective products to meet the needs of the Warfighter.

