

INSIDE ^{PEO} STRI

JANUARY 2012

IN THIS ISSUE

U.S. Sen. Marco Rubio of Fla.
Visits Team Orlando... Page 2

32nd VCSA Gen. Chiarelli Sends
Parting Message... Page 3

Maintenance Trainers Save the
Army Loads of Money... Page 4

Employees Run in Honor of KIA
Soldiers' Children... Page 6

WORTH REPEATING

“This is not about winners and losers. It's about coming up with the right joint force.”

— Chief of Staff of the Army Gen. Raymond T. Odierno, while discussing the impact of the Department of Defense's strategic guidance on the Army that will result in a planned drawdown of 80,000 Soldiers and at least eight brigade combat teams at the press briefing at the Pentagon, Jan. 27.

SGM Puts New Year's Resolutions into Action with PEO STRI-wide WEIGHT LOSS CHALLENGE

By Kristen A. McCullough, PEO STRI Public Affairs Officer

For many, the beginning of a fresh year inspires healthy eating and physical fitness. The gym gets packed, and junk food sales steep to an all-year low. While the 2012 New Year's resolutions were aplenty, PEO STRI's Sgt. Maj. Pat Ogden sprung into action.

The competition for a healthier lifestyle is “based off an idea I used in Germany when I was the G-3 sergeant major,” Ogden said. “We allowed our workforce one hour of PT three times a week. We challenged people to take 5,000 steps a day. We taught free spin classes that were literally filled with participants.”

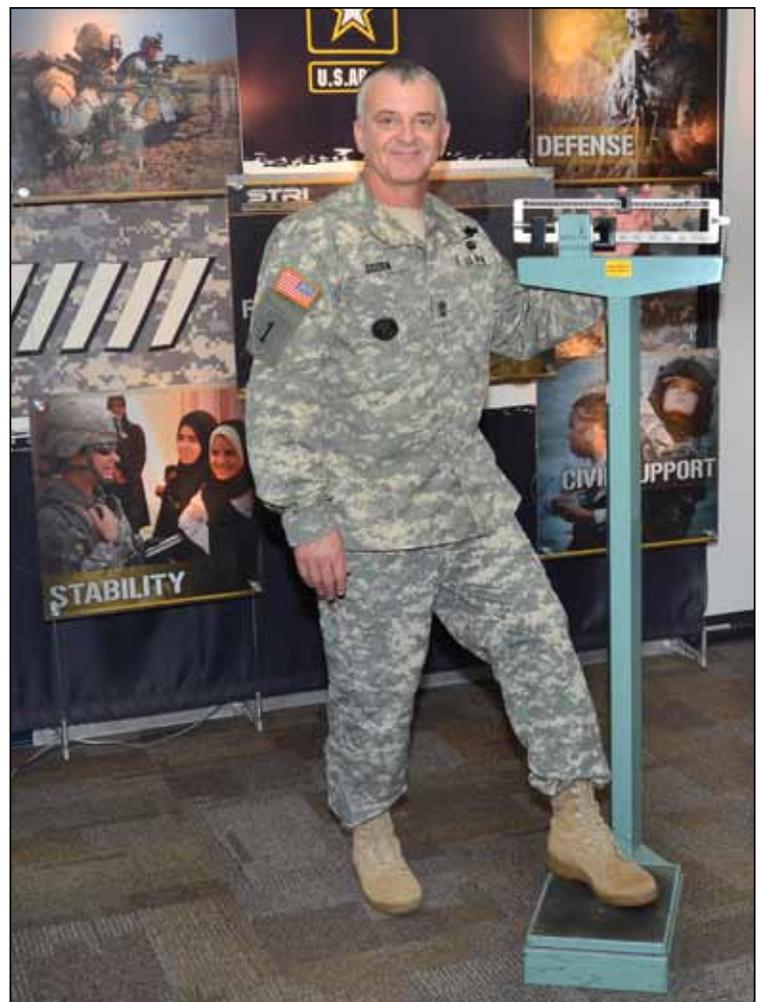
Ogden's taking that concept and altering it to fit the PEO STRI workforce.

Based off of NBC's hit television show, “The Biggest Loser,” more than 100 employees are competing in the weight loss challenge. Boasting a friendlier name, but the same rigid competition, PEO STRI's “Biggest Winner” challenge is motivating employees to exercise, eat nutritiously and not only obtain, but maintain a healthy lifestyle.

“The intent of the program is to get people to alter their lifestyles and improve their quality of life,” Ogden said. “It's very easy to get into a mode of comfort, and before you know it, you've got 10, or 20, or 30 extra pounds.”

The format of the challenge is still a work in progress, but the participants weighed-in at the beginning of January.

Between now and June, the Mystery Health Advisory Board,



U.S. Army PEO STRI Photo/Doug Schaub

Sgt. Maj. Pat Ogden, the senior enlisted advisor at PEO STRI, commits much of his time to the health and wellbeing of the workforce. His latest effort is the Biggest Winner challenge, which is currently going on at PEO STRI.

a secret group of individuals from an array of organizations, will pool sources on nutrition, motivational thoughts and fitness. Ogden will use these tools to encourage participants to achieve a healthier lifestyle.

“If I can get these folks to

throw their additional body weight in a rucksack and carry it around all day, they would know the importance of this,” said Ogden, who acknowledges a noncommissioned officer's responsibility to care for the

Continued on page 11

Senator Spends Time with Team Orlando Learning about Modeling and Simulation

By Brian Roscoe, NAWCTSD Public Affairs Officer

U.S. Sen. Marco Rubio of Florida visited the Naval Support Activity Orlando for a tour of one of the nation's largest modeling and simulation industry clusters.

While aboard NSA Orlando, the senator was hosted by Capt. William "Roto" Reuter, Naval Air Warfare Center Training Systems Division and NSA Orlando commanding officer, and retired Air Force Lt. Gen. Tom Baptiste, executive director for the National Center for Simulation (NCS). Senior leaders from each of the military services, the Metro Orlando Economic Development Commission, University of Central Florida, and UCF's Institute for Simulation and Training (IST) participated in the meeting as the senator and his staff heard about the high impact military, academic and industry partnership that comprises Team Orlando.

The visit began with a round table discussion led by Reuter who explained how the various organizations of Team Orlando work together. Reuter gave an overview of the military and other government agencies that are part of the team. He explained the acquisition and operational missions of the organizations and spoke about how they accomplish their individual and collaborative missions. He spoke about the financial impact, stating that together the organizations are awarding about \$4.5 billion in contracts each year.

"This is the world's center of excellence for modeling and simulation," Reuter said.

Baptiste explained how military simulation technology, like serious games and virtual worlds, have an even greater value to the nation as these technologies could easily be used by other industry sectors such as education and medicine. He reiterated that the simulations are "economically and ecologically friendly" and they allow users to practice dangerous maneuvers as well as conduct mission rehearsals, all much more



U.S. Navy Photo/Doug Schaub

Sen. Marco Rubio (center) meets Jan. 11 with members of Team Orlando, a group of modeling and simulation organizations representing the military services, academic institutions and industry members, all across Central Florida.

efficiently and effectively.

The team discussed the relevance of modeling and simulation to the medical industry sector explaining what has been done in the military simulations are applicable in the training of surgeons, doctors and all medical professionals. They also discussed that further collaboration

is inevitable with Orlando's new Medical City being constructed at nearby Lake Nona.

After the round table discussion, Reuter led Rubio and his staff to see demonstrations of some of the simulations and technologies being acquired, built and fielded by the armed forces.

NAWCTSD provided a demonstration of how pressure-sensitive touch-screen technology can be used to train Sailors to conduct maintenance aboard submarines at a fraction of the cost of replicating



U.S. Army Photo/Master Sgt. Kelly McCargo, 1AD PAO NCOIC

Pete Marion (left), the assistant program executive officer for customer support at PEO STRI, greets Sen. Marco Rubio Jan. 11 on behalf of the U.S. Army during the senator's visit to Team Orlando to learn about the world's center of excellence in modeling and simulation.

the environment in a classroom. After trying his hand at moving virtual tools on a virtual workbench in a simulated submarine environment, Rubio noted that that technology was exciting because it could

Continued on page 10





Gen. Peter W. Chiarelli, the vice chief of staff of the Army, retires Jan. 31 after 41 years of service.

III Corps and Fort Hood Public Affairs/Daniel Certero

FINAL THOUGHTS FROM THE VICE CHIEF OF STAFF OF THE ARMY

By Gen. Peter W. Chiarelli, 32nd Vice Chief of Staff of the Army

It is truly remarkable all that our Soldiers have accomplished in Iraq and Afghanistan. Over the past decade, they have done an absolutely magnificent job fighting two wars in difficult and demanding environments.

That said, they are undoubtedly tired and stressed, and many are dealing with challenges, including physical and psychological wounds, injuries and illnesses incurred as a result of their service. Among the most difficult are the non-visible wounds of post-traumatic stress and traumatic brain injury. I frequently refer to them as the “signature wounds” of this war.

The foremost challenge is the immaturity of brain science; we simply don’t yet know enough. Researchers, doctors and other health care providers are learning

more and more every day about the brain and about injuries to the brain. But, there is much still to be discovered.

Fortunately over the past decade, we’ve made tremendous progress in what has largely been “unchartered territory,” with the development of effective protocols that we put in place downrange for concussive events and mild traumatic brain injuries. We’re currently in the process of developing similar protocols for post-traumatic stress. Meanwhile, the medical and scientific research communities have developed new treatment and imaging methods, therapies, technologies and protective devices.

We’ve also made great strides within our own ranks. The comprehensive behavioral health system of care in place

today ensures behavioral health screenings are conducted annually, during pre-deployment, prior to redeployment and upon returning home from deployment. Leaders and Soldiers alike now recognize the parity between physical and behavioral health. This evolution in the culture of our force is clearly evident in the increased number of behavioral health contacts in recent years (more than 280,000 individuals sought outpatient behavioral health care in fiscal year 2011). This is good news!

Thanks to the great work of leaders, commanders and providers Army-wide, we have made meaningful strides in our ongoing efforts to improve the health and discipline of our force. Consider where we might be today had we not started this

proactive interdisciplinary effort early on. The reality is we have never been more prepared to take care of Soldiers and their families in a post-war era. We must maintain this momentum and ensure we take care of our most precious asset: our people.

If we all continue to do our part to reach out and help connect individuals with the tremendous outpouring of support services and resources available to them we can help heal wounds, enable opportunity and ultimately achieve a stronger, more capable Army for the future.

It truly has been the greatest honor and privilege of my life to serve alongside America’s Soldiers, Army civilians and family members these last four decades. Keep up the great work! Army Strong!

EFFICIENCIES IN TRAINING

Maintenance Training Systems Bring Cost-efficiencies, Reduce Training Time

By Rick Gregory, APEO Business Operations Support Staff

Imagine an Army instructor having to purposely cut a \$50,000 wiring harness on a vehicle just so a Soldier trainee can learn how to troubleshoot, find and fix the malfunction by installing a new harness. Imagine that scenario playing out hundreds of times each year as Soldiers learn the mechanical skills required in their military occupational specialties.

In today's austere budgetary climate, that kind of monetary waste could make headline news.

Thanks to the Maintenance Training Systems (MTS) procured and fielded by dedicated teams in PM CATT's Product Manager for Ground Combat Tactical Trainers (PM GCTT), that imaginary waste never has to happen.

"In the past, when students trained on tactical equipment, they tended to break many components of the vehicle, costing huge amounts of money in some cases to make needed repairs," said Jeb Bishop, the project director for the MTS for the High-Mobility Artillery Rocket Systems (HIMARS) and Stryker. "With the Maintenance Training Systems, the trainees are put through their learning paces without the risk of damaging expensive parts on the real vehicles while they are searching for the problem they need to fix."

Bishop used the HIMARS as an example of the cost savings that are realized with the MTS versus using the actual equipment.

"On the HIMARS, a wiring harness could cost up to \$50,000, making it cost-prohibitive to break the tactical cable," he explained. "On the simulator, the same cable has been modified for training so it can be used without spending those dollars on the tactical cable. Once the trainee locates the fault and fixes or replaces the cable,



U.S. Army photo

Soldiers review their maintenance manuals while working on the Maintenance Training System's Hands On Trainer for the Abrams tank.



U.S. Army photo

Soldiers learn about troubleshooting and maintenance skills on the Diagnostic Troubleshooting Trainer (DTT) which is part of the Maintenance Training System.



U.S. Army photo

Abrams Maintenance Training System includes the Hands On Trainer (HOT) which is an exacting replica of the actual vehicle.

the instructor simply resets the simulator and moves on to the next task with the trainee."

Besides the HIMARS and Stryker MTS, PEO STRI also fields maintenance simulators for the Bradley Fighting Vehicles and Abrams tank.

The family of MTS provides realistic virtual and hands-on instruction for Soldiers undergoing both initial and sustainment training for repairing multi-million dollar equipment. The MTS

provide skill level development for system operation, fault diagnosis, troubleshooting, adjustments and removal and repair tasks.

Before getting their hands and tools on the inner workings of the actual vehicles, recruits first will spend hours on a tabletop computer that provides virtual training in their required tasks. As part of the MTS, the Diagnostic Troubleshooting Trainer (DTT) provides trainees lessons in troubleshooting and maintenance

skills and also tracks the students' performance. The virtual learning environment also includes the part-task trainers that provide a high-fidelity replica of the actual vehicle subsystems.

Carlos Alvarado, the PM GCTT project director for the MTS for the M1 Abrams tanks and Bradley Fighting Vehicles, said the DTTs also provide training efficiencies.

"While only one or two individuals can be trained in

Continued on page 5



Burmester Takes On Business Operations Support Role

By Kristen A. McCullough, PEO STRI Public Affairs Officer



U.S. Army PEO STRI Photo/Doug Schaub

George Burmester assumes the role as PEO STRI's business operations support manager January 2012.

A significant change in leadership recently occurred in the Business Operations Office that affects much of the PEO STRI workforce. Whether you've ever moved offices, attended a Town Hall Meeting, competed in an Organization Day, used your

government credit card or worked out at the YMCA, the position responsible for all these tasks has just changed hands.

Walt Pezzolo retired from the federal government after 37 years of service. While working in the BOO, Pezzolo served as PEO STRI's internal auditor and the manager of infrastructure support. Among his many accomplishments, Pezzolo was responsible for the office realignment, furnishings, communications equipment, computers and relocation of hundreds of employees in the newly constructed Partnership buildings.

According to Pezzolo's Meritorious Civilian Service Award justification, he was an "inspiration to PEO STRI's workforce at all levels. He has proven time and again to be the clear, calm strategist when

attacking any task."

Although many across the organization will miss Pezzolo's infectious spirit, passion for golf and booming Staten Island accent echoing through the halls, the workforce can rest assured that the position is in good hands.

George Burmester accepted the position in January switching professional gears from engineering to business operations.

"I had been in engineering for over 20 years, and I currently hold four Level III DAWIA certifications, to include program management," said Burmester, formerly the chief engineer for PM Field OPS responsible for more than 70 programs.

In his new role, Burmester said he will "continue to support the PEO and look at process improvements and efficiencies where possible." His initial



U.S. Army PEO STRI Photo/Doug Schaub

Walt Pezzolo retired from PEO STRI December 2011 after 37 years of federal service.

priorities include ensuring facilities are available where and when they're needed and that the Defense Travel System is running smoothly.

There's no doubt that Burmester's got his work cut out for him. "One of my first goals is to figure out what my predecessor promised all the PMs," he said.

Needless to say, the organization can be confident that their business operations requirements will be handled with the utmost care and professionalism.

EFFICIENCIES IN TRAINING: *continued from page 5*

the turret of an Abrams tank or Bradley Fighting Vehicle at one time, the DTTs provide training efficiencies by supporting the parallel training of students limited in number only by the number of DTTs in a classroom," he explained. "The DTTs also provide a game-like user interface that is familiar to most recruits, enabling them to quickly navigate through the virtual weapon system environment and acquire the cognitive skills associated with the procedures they must follow in troubleshooting these complex systems."

He added that, while learning the troubleshooting procedures on the DTTs, the trainees also learn the location and operation of relevant system components.

Once out of the classrooms, the trainees will apply what they learned on the MTS's Hands On Trainer (HOT) that provides an exacting replica of the actual vehicle or system. At the flip

of a switch, the HOT can be programmed to run normally or the instructor can inject a fault into the system for the trainee to determine.

Along with saving money, Bishop said the MTS also save valuable training time.

"It could take hours to put the tactical vehicle into the condition needed for a given lesson," he explained. "This time is minimized with the MTS because, with the click of a mouse, the simulator can be set up and reset with a few mouse clicks for the next trainee."

He added that the MTS provide the instructors with variables in training that they didn't previously have when using tactical vehicles.

"Due to the cost avoidance issues with the MTS, the instructors can inject more 'bugs' into the trainers than could be inserted into the real vehicles," he said. "This allows students to learn troubleshooting; a skill that could not be trained prior to the fielding of the MTS."



U.S. Army photo

Soldiers work on the brake system of the Hands On Trainer (HOT) which is part of the Stryker Maintenance Training System.

One of those instructors who can inject more bugs into the trainers is Staff Sgt. Arturo DeSantiago who uses the HIMARS MTS to train Soldiers at Fort Lee, Va. Though he said nothing can completely replace the experience of training on the actual equipment, he gives high marks to the MTS.

"The comparison of the realism of the MTS to the tactical

equipment is, in my opinion, neck and neck," he said. "I have been in this military occupational specialty now for more than 16 years and the training aids we had then are no comparison at all to what our Soldiers train on today."

An old adage says, "If it isn't broke, don't fix it." With the MTS, that could be changed to "Don't break it just to fix it."



Operation Giveback Photo/Trina Cothrin

Runners from the Operation Giveback Team complete the 200-mile Ragnar Relay Jan. 6-7 from Miami to Key West. The team consisted of Wounded Warriors, Staff Sgts. William Castillo, Chris Gordon and Jorge Zapata and Sgt. Noe Santos, and PEO STRI employees Jose Garcia-Aponte, Col. Mike Flanagan, Robert Burton, Katherine Amaya, Trina Cothrin and Mark Brzezinski of the STTC.

OPERATION GIVEBACK TEAM RUNS FOR FALLEN HEROES' FAMILIES

By Kristen A. McCullough, PEO STRI Public Affairs Officer

The drive from Miami to Key West, although scenic, tends to be a trying one with the majority of the drive consisting of two lanes, heavy traffic and trailer-hitched boats. Those who've made the three-plus hour drive should think twice, however, before they complain next time.

A team of individuals, comprised primarily of PEO STRI employees and Wounded Warriors, ran a grueling 200 miles from Miami to Key West as part of the Ragnar Relay Series that, according to their website, is "an overnight running relay race that makes testing your limits a team sport."

And test their limits it did.

"At the completion of the famous seven-mile bridge, we were informed that we were next to the last team, and at our current pace, we would not finish by the official closing time, causing us to be disqualified," said retired Command Sgt. Maj. Jose Garcia-

Aponte.

Give up? Not a chance. This Army team got to work.

"We made the choice not to react by panicking, but rather respond by revising our strategy and selecting the strongest four males and four females while using the rest of our team to cheer us on," Garcia-Aponte said, citing the insurmountable challenge of having to complete 45 miles 90 minutes behind schedule after already running for 30 hours straight and coping with sleep deprivation, hunger and injuries.

When many runners in their shoes would have thrown up their hands and headed home, the Operation Giveback team couldn't turn their backs on the cause they feel so adamantly about. The team carried with them a piece of paper with the names and photos of 14 fallen heroes.

This past Christmas, the Operation Giveback charity gave gifts to the children of these

heroes. This run was also in their honor.

"Our motivational points were twofold," Garcia-Aponte said. "One, to raise awareness about our Nation's Gold Star Families. And two, to raise resources in order to be a positive presence in our fallen heroes' kids."

After 38 hours, nine minutes and four seconds, the team crossed the finish line in honor of these fallen warriors and their children.

"A quarter of a mile out from the finish line, we met the last runner and all of us, with the Wounded Warriors leading, crossed the finish line... together. That was priceless!" Garcia-Aponte exclaimed.

Not only did they make great strides for 14 Gold Star families, but they also made great strides, literally, in the race finishing ahead of 10 other teams.

Some runners say the hardest step is the first one out the door.



Operation Giveback Photo/Trina Cothrin

A member of the Operation Giveback team powers through physical and mental exhaustion to complete his portion of the relay race.

It's plausible that the Operation Giveback team begs to differ. Perhaps we can all agree that the best step is the one across the finish line.

SUN BOWL PLAYERS GET A KICK OUT OF U.S. ARMY TRAINING SIMULATORS

By Master Sgt. Kelly McCargo, 1st Armored Division Public Affairs Office

“Man I look like Rambo,” said a 314 pound, 6’5” football player. He was easily hefting a 22 pound M240B Army machine gun with one arm, with several of his equally burly peers laughing nearby.

More than 200 Sun Bowl football players from the Utah “Utes” and Georgia Tech “Yellow Jackets” converged at Fort Bliss for a tour of the state-of-the-art training facilities, Dec 28. Maj. Gen. Dana J.H. Pittard, commanding general of 1st Armored Division and Fort Bliss, welcomed the players and discussed the broad transformation Fort Bliss has gone through making it the “future of the Army.”

During the tour, the players split into their respective teams to visit the Engagement Skills Trainer 2000, the Close Combat Tactical Trainer warehouse and a military vehicle display.

The EST 2000 features a 28 by 11 foot interactive movie screen. The Soldiers, with their assigned weapons, hone target acquisition skills just as they would as a squad fighting in Afghanistan.

“Being in the Army is just like being on a football team. It is a team sport. Everybody has to know their jobs. We have our own plays called battle drills. This reinforces what Soldiers are trained to do once they are in contact with the enemy,” said Command Sgt. Maj. David Davenport, 1st Armored Division and Fort Bliss command sergeant major.

“Here at the EST 2000, they practice marksmanship. Marksmanship is very important to us, just as blocking and tackling are to you guys,” he said.

The players were given a chance to shoot the M4 Carbine with a basic sighting scope, while wearing an Army combat helmet and body armor.

“I have never seen anything like this at all,” said Dres Anderson, a Utes wide receiver. “This gives us some idea of what Soldiers go through. This stuff is no joke. You see it on TV and you think you could do



Chaz Cheeks, a Georgia Tech outside linebacker, lines his site with an M240 7.62mm machine gun at the vehicle and equipment display at Fort Bliss, Dec. 28.

U.S. Army Photo/Master Sgt. Kelly McCargo, 1AD PAO NCOIC

it. It is not as easy as it looks.”

The EST 2000 is linked to a database which replicates several combat scenarios into “scenes” from Iraq and Afghanistan that Soldiers must properly interpret and react to.

“This is awesome. I don’t have a lot of experience with weapons, but this is a safe, cost-effective way to train your Soldiers. I am really impressed,” said Will Jackson, a Yellow Jackets offensive lineman. “The gear is really heavy. You see it on TV, and it looks really light. Once you put it on, you realize that is not the case at all. I don’t think I could wear this all day.”

The EST 2000 weapons systems are interchangeable and can support up to 10 medium to heavy caliber weapons, shotguns or anti-tank launchers.

“We wanted to show them the main weapon they are using in combat,” said Jerry McKinney, EST 2000 manager. “We also ran some collective type engagement scenarios for them to shoot.”



U.S. Army Photo/Master Sgt. Kelly McCargo, 1AD PAO NCOIC

Sam McNearney, a Georgia Tech Yellow Jackets running back, sits in the gunners’ station of the Fort Bliss Close Combat Tactical Trainer, Dec. 28.

Meanwhile, about two miles away, several players toured the Close Combat Tactical Trainer (CCTT) and military vehicles.

Outside of the CCTT warehouse five combat vehicles, with the vehicle crew compliment, were displayed in the parking lot. The Soldiers that composed the crew

Continued on page 11



PM ITTS Makes Strong Impression to Army G-8 Center for Army Analysis/Army Modeling and Simulation Office

By Kyle Griffin, STIL Engineer, PM ITTS

Modeling and simulation experts from PM ITTS briefed members of the G8 Center for Army Analysis (CAA)/Army Modeling and Simulation Office (AMSO) Jan. 19 at the Threat Systems Management Office (TSMO) in Redstone Arsenal, Ala.

Discussions from the meeting focused on how the intelligence centers, like the National Ground Intelligence Center (NGIC), collaborate with TSMO and the Targets Management Office.

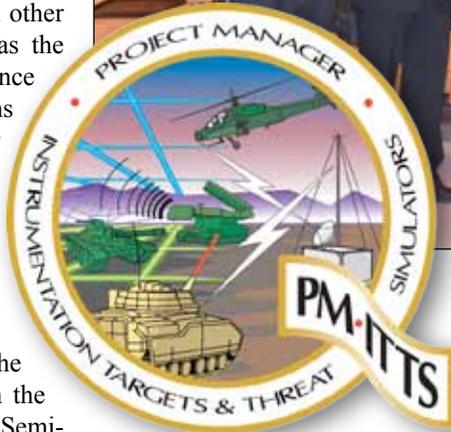
“It was emphasized that our partnership with NGIC and other intelligence centers, such as the Missile and Space Intelligence Center (MSIC), remains strong and relevant to our mission particularly in the areas of target and threat validation and accreditation,” Cisca Vuong, PM ITTS chief engineer, said.

“Dr. Henninger said she was also very interested in the integration and use of One Semi-Automated Forces (OneSAF) within our M&S programs,” Vuong said. “PM ITTS discussed how we serve as the OneSAF co-developer providing the threat constructive piece via the Threat Intelligence and Electronic Warfare Environment (TIEW ENV) program, and the potential application of Command, Control and Communications (C3) driver/Starship II capability for dynamic OneSAF load-balancing requirement.”

The briefings, which were chosen by Dr. Amy Henninger, the technical advisor for G8 CAA/AMSO, also included topics on Integrated Threat Force (ITF),



U.S. Army Photo/Katherine Starck



Network Exploitation Test Tool (NETT), Intelligence Modeling & Simulation for Evaluation (IMASE) Scenario Generation Tool (ISGT), virtual target and Systems Test and Integration Lab (STIL).

The day ended with a tour of the STIL facility and a demonstration of the Aircraft Survivability Equipment tester. The STIL provides the capability to rapidly, accurately and efficiently perform developmental testing on aviation systems by immersing the aircraft under test in a virtual environment that is controllable and repeatable.

“Dr. Henninger was very

The Systems Test and Integration Lab (STIL) team from the PM ITTS Instrumentation Management Office (IMO) demonstrates the newly developed Aircraft Survivability Equipment Tester on an OH-58 helicopter at Redstone Test Center in Huntsville, Ala., to Army G8 Center for Army Analysis (CAA)/Army Modeling and Simulation Office (AMSO). Shown in the picture from left to right: Russ Longenbach, director of IMO, Kyle Griffin, Systems Test and Integration Lab (STIL) engineer, Chip Brown, STIL senior advisor, Dr. Amy Henninger, technical advisor to G8 CAA/AMSO, Cisca Vuong, PM ITTS chief engineer, Col. Michael Zarbo, project manager for PM ITTS, Darrell Wright, STIL project director, Jim McMullin, AMSO operations research analyst.

interested in the future use of OneSAF for the STIL virtual battlespace capability to fully stimulate attack and observation aircraft,” Vuong said.

“With the strong impression made by the PM ITTS team for the products delivered and the complexity of work performed for the testing community, Dr. Henninger has offered her support in the Program Objective Memorandum (POM) process

through the Equipping Program Evaluation Group, mentioning that she would be an advocate for our programs, committed to ensuring that AMSO website has a link to the Virtual Target Army Model Exchange repository, support the TIEW ENV OneSAF validation use case, and offer assistance in spreading the Network Exploitation Test Tool Users Group awareness in the M&S community,” Vuong said.

NOV 2011 Town Hall Recap: Q&A and Suggestions

QUESTIONS

How can we make PEO STRI a smoke-free environment?

We are a tenant organization on Naval Support Activity Orlando, so we will comply with the host's rules. We are also mandated to comply with Army and DoD directives, so if a smoke-free workplace becomes the requirement, then that's what we're going to do.

Why can't we have a full and complete Organizational Chart (name, position and phone number) on the internal PEO STRI web page?

We can, and we're working to address it.

What are the recent changes mandated for PEO STRI's Table of Distribution and Allowances (TDA)? What are the impacts to the workforce and how will PEO STRI comply with the changes?

We've recently received direction to take reductions in our TDA. For fiscal year 2011, we were directed to reduce 15 positions and we worked toward that goal through attrition; that's what the VERA/VSIPs were all about. Will there be more changes? Absolutely. We get questions and drills in daily from headquarters that involve TDA programs, personnel, etc., but there haven't been any additional mandates beyond the 15-position reduction aforementioned.

Is it possible to have some of the tables in the smoking areas moved to areas for non-smokers to have lunch outside the building at Research Commons?

The Tower Realty Company that owns the building is looking to put two square picnic tables in the northeast corner of the Research Commons property.

Is there a policy or rule of conduct regarding the use of vulgar language in the workplace?

Yes, there are a policy, legal opinion and regulatory information in place. Employees are supposed to have a clean environment that's professional, and vulgar language is not supposed to be used. Do people do that? On occasion, they do. If it's offensive, bring it to their attention. If you can't do it in the public forum, bring it to them later. Go to your chain of command or your leadership if you need additional assistance.

Has there been any progress made on installing power outlets in the De Florez parking lot for employees with plug-in electric vehicles?

Short answer – no. Longer answer – nobody is working it. Why? The controller general has ruled that without statutory authority you may not use appropriated funds to install battery recharging stations for privately owned vehicles.

How is the temperature regulated in Research Commons?

It's regulated with thermostats. You can coordinate with your admin or contact Ms. Eddie Brewer at (407) 384-5404 and they can help you with that.

Can you explain the Acquisition Academy hiring process and the checks and balances that are in place?

There is no Acquisition Academy hiring process. The Acquisition Academy is a training session. We have a hiring practice using merit principles that brings folks in and the first thing they do is attend the Acquisition Academy. We also have folks that are internal to PEO STRI that we direct to go to that training. But there is no hiring practice specifically for the Acquisition Academy. We target folks to come through the Acquisition Academy to later fill the ranks of PEO STRI.

SUGGESTIONS

Improve reliability of network printers.

Action: The CIO received this suggestion and has the task to continue to make our printers more reliable.

Improve education of PM workforce on internal PM processes.

Action: This question was related to PM TRADE, so it was passed down to the leadership there and they are going to look at and address that with their team.

Put in a cross walk from STTC going across the street.

Action: This will be brought up in the local DASH II meeting.

CITIZEN STRI

"What is your New Year's resolution, and have you stuck with it?"



"For 2012, I chose to commit to improving processes: praying more often, communicating with my teenage and pre-teen daughters (any suggestions? more praying maybe?), exercising more often and finding the little things each day to enjoy. So far, things are better all around! Finding joy every

day makes the world a better place, at least from my perspective. Happy New Year!"

- Susan Askew, PM ITTS



"My New Year's resolution is to reduce bills. Yes, I am on a good track and have started with reducing some bills that needed to be paid off."

- Troy Mitchell, PM ITTS

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

**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?**

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

easily be applied to multiple applications.

The Simulation and Training Technology Center (STTC) showed medical research that is becoming important training tools in military and civilian medical applications. The medical research is already playing an important role in the collaborative partnerships within Orlando's Medical City, including UCF's new medical school and the new Veterans Affairs hospital and simulation lab.

One notable display included limbs made from synthetic flesh. STTC is using synthetic flesh as a more realistic alternative to conducting training with live animals.

Representatives from PEO STRI demonstrated the Intelligence Electronic Warfare Tactical Proficiency Trainer, a training system for analysts and system operators to acquire and exploit intelligence data, just as they would in real world operations.

"These programs have tremendous applications that could be used for training outside of the military realm," Rubio said after viewing the demonstrations. "With this technology, you could train anyone to do anything. The commercial applications of this technology would be extraordinary."

After the senator asked how customers know who to contact within the various military simulation agencies, Reuter explained how the Joint Training and Integration Evaluation Center serves as a central point of contact that liaisons with each of the Team Orlando agencies to help connect a customer need with the organization that is best suited to deliver a training system.

"Thank you all for the work you do; it's very exciting," Rubio said at the end of his visit. "The fact it's in Florida is even more exciting."

Rubio serves on several Congressional committees including the Senate Committee on Commerce, Science and Transportation and the Select Committee on Intelligence.



U.S. Navy Photo/Doug Schaub

Derek Hong (center) and Don Stewart of PEO STRI demonstrate the Intelligence Electronic Warfare Tactical Proficiency Trainer Human Control Cell to Sen. Marco Rubio during a visit to NSA Orlando Jan. 11.

partnered with the players and explained the capabilities and components of each vehicle.

"It's pretty crammed in there. It took me like an hour to get in the Stryker Mobile Gun System," said 6 foot 3 inch tall Isaac Asiata, a Utes offensive lineman.

The military vehicles displayed were a Stryker Infantry Carrier Vehicle, a Stryker Mobile Gun System, a M1A2 Abrams Main Tank, a Bradley Fighting Vehicle and an up-armored Humvee.

After a thorough introduction of each vehicle and the crew members' duties, the players toured the CCTT warehouse.

"Simulations help our Soldiers study and analyze the opposing forces just like the coaches and players study and analyze the opposing team," Joe Porras, CCTT senior analyst, said to the players. "It provides our Soldiers the muscle memory that they need in battle so they can come back from combat alive. It's not the best plan that wins, it's the best executed plan," he said.

The warehouse accommodates more than 28 simulators that

replicate crew positions of numerous combat vehicles. The simulators are linked together via a state-of-the-art computer database with several combat scenarios.

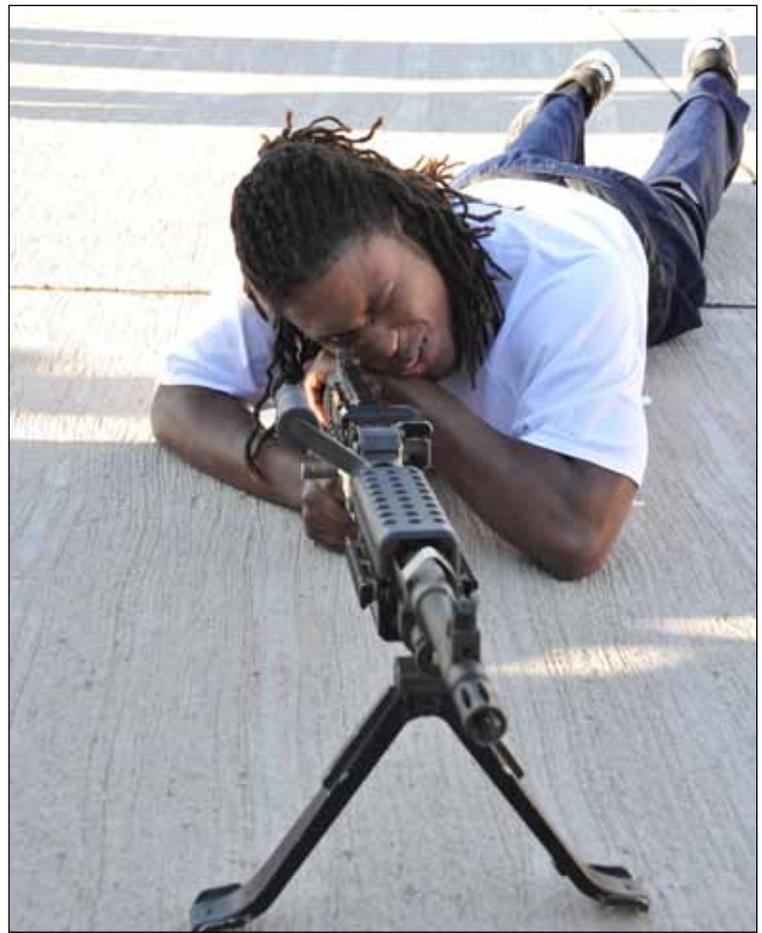
"Boom!" yells the gunner as the T-72 Soviet tank he shot burst into flames on the view screen.

"That is pretty sick," said Chris Polizi, Utes' tight end coach. Sick in this sense means "great!"

Leaders at the crew, platoon or company level negotiate the scenarios to hone critical leadership and precision gunner skills.

"It's fun to see what troops do every day. It's one thing to see it on TV, but to be here seeing it in action ... you have to be a special type of someone to do this every day," Asiata said.

"My mom was an Army brat, my dad was in the Secret Service and my uncle was in intelligence in Iraq and Afghanistan," said Sean Poole, Georgia Tech Yellow Jackets' punter. "I really appreciate the Soldiers taking their time to show us the military equipment. Everyone is excited to be here."



U.S. Army photo/Staff Sgt. Casey J. McGeorge, 15th Sustainment Brigade Public Affairs

Members of the Georgia Tech Yellow Jackets football team fire a scenario at the Engagement Skills Trainer 2000 Dec. 28. The team was visiting Soldiers and Fort Bliss prior to taking on the University of Utah Utes in the Hyundai Sun Bowl.

WEIGHT LOSS: *continued from cover*

health of his troops.

As it stands now, the June timeframe is the final weigh-in date for the contestants, who have been divided into competing teams based on PM shop. The team with the highest percentage of weight loss will "win" the challenge. It's quite obvious, however, that all the participants who stick with this challenge will be winners in the end.

"The healthier people are, they more productive they are," Ogden said. "From a business case, the healthier the workforce is, the more productive they are."

Ogden said he hopes that there's an incentive to carry this program forward. As a master fitness trainer, and someone who's trained Soldiers to fight and survive in conflict, Ogden said he's compelled to care for the wellbeing of PEO STRI personnel. He's already hosted multiple personal defense seminars and virtual marksmanship training for PEO STRI employees.

"The Army has taught me to do this kind of stuff, and it's my passion to train others," he said.

"Why do you think the Army does PT every day?" Ogden asked. You can't be out of shape and fight. And life's a fight."

HOLIDAYS Events

FEB. 5

Super Bowl Sunday

FEB. 8

Army War College International
Fellows Program Official Visit

FEB. 14

Valentine's Day

FEB. 15

Town Hall Meeting

FEB. 15-17

Terry Edwards, SES, Official Visit

FEB. 20

Washington's Birthday

INSIDE PEO STRI

Inside STRI is an authorized publication for military and civilian members of the U.S. Army Program Executive Office for Simulation, Training and Instrumentation, Orlando, Fla. 32826. Inside STRI is published under the authority of AR 360-1 and applies the Associated Press Stylebook industry standard.

Contents of Inside STRI are not necessarily the official views of, or endorsed by, the U.S. Government, Department of Defense, Department of the Army, or PEO STRI.

Editorial material for publication should be submitted to PEO STRI Public Affairs Office, 12350 Research Parkway, Orlando, Fla. 32826. The PAO reserves the right to edit all material submitted for publication.

For more information about PEO STRI or to view Inside STRI online, visit our website at www.peostri.army.mil

Editor:

Kristen Dooley McCullough, Editor-in-Chief
Kristen.McCullough@us.army.mil

Design:

Dwain Fletcher Co.
CGgraphics@peostri.army.mil

TEAM ORLANDO



U.S. Army PEO STRI Photo/Virginia Smallwood

Key military leaders from the local modeling and simulation offices, including Rob Reyenga (left, sitting), deputy program executive officer for PEO STRI, participate in the annual Combined Professional Associations Group (CPAG) Defense Forum Breakfast Jan. 6 at the Radisson University Hotel.



U.S. Army PEO STRI Photo/Doug Schaub

PEO STRI's Deputy Program Executive Officer Rob Reyenga provides the welcoming remarks at the 11th Annual Warfighter TechNet Conference held Jan. 18-20 in Orlando, Fla.



U.S. Army PEO STRI Photo/Virginia Smallwood

Maj. Gen. David Rubenstein (center), commanding general of the U.S. Medical Department Center and School and the chief of the U.S. Army Medical Service Corps., visits the Nicholson Center for Surgical Advancement in Celebration, Fla., Jan. 19-20 to view how PEO STRI is using medical simulation to train Soldiers. Throughout the day, he was accompanied by PEO STRI's Col. Francisco Espallat (left), project manager of PM CATT, and Lt. Col. Wilson Ariza, assistant project manager for medical simulation.



U.S. Army Photo

PEO STRI alumni reconnect Jan. 24 on Camp Eggers, Kabul. Col. Karen Saunders, the former project manager for constructive simulation, Lou Hamilton (center) of the PSG finance division, and Lt. Col. Joseph Lisella, the former assistant product manager for special operations forces training systems, meet up while serving in Afghanistan.

IN PHOTOS