

INSIDE PEO STRI

JULY/AUGUST 2013

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WORTH REPEATING

“The bottom line is that you are in the best Army in the world, the best manned, the best equipped, the best trained, the best led. We're going through a time of transition, but at the end you'll still be in the best Army in the world.”

~ Vice Chief of Staff
Gen. John F. Campbell,
emphasizing the U.S.
Army being the premier
land force in the world,
despite the current
fiscal challenges and the
transformation the Army
is facing.

Furlough Goes, Anniversary Glows, New Building Arose, All in One Month's Time

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

With news of lifting the administrative furlough coming down Aug. 6, officially reducing the number of non-working, no pay days from 11 to six for all civilian defense employees, Naval Support Activity (NSA) Orlando residents had reason to rejoice, for this along with a number of other activities.

Days after the furlough was lifted, Army and Navy employees aboard NSA Orlando celebrated the 25th anniversary of the de Florez complex. Members of the joint Army-Navy workforce gathered in Warfighter Park Aug. 12 for short remarks offered by NSA Orlando Commanding Officer Capt. Steve Nakagawa and a group photo.

Long-time Navy employee, Rob Matthews, who now serves as the technical director for the Naval Air Warfare Center Training Systems Division, reminisces on the past two-and-a-half decades. “Research Park has grown astronomically. Video teleconferencing was brand new [when the complex opened]. We had space for one VTC; it was

pretty crude. The technology we see in the labs couldn't even be imagined back then.”

More than 100 members who worked on the installation since Aug. 12, 1988 were ceremoniously dubbed “plank owners,” coinciding with the longstanding unofficial

IN AUGUST, THE ARMY-NAVY CREW ABOARD NSA ORLANDO CELEBRATED A SILVER ANNIVERSARY AND OPENED A NEW BUILDING, HAPPILY MOVING INTO SEPTEMBER WITHOUT THE DARK FURLOUGH CLOUD CASTING A SHADOW OVER THE INSTALLATION'S RATHER SUNNY SKIES.

Navy tradition of assigning this label to crewmembers of a ship when it is placed into commission.

One de Florez plank owner vividly remembers the move to NSA Orlando. “The old Navy base was a bunch of old buildings. When they built this new building,

it was like moving to heaven,” Mike Ferrante, an engineer for Naval Air Warfare Center Training Systems Division, said. “One of the biggest attractions of the de Florez building was the lack of insects, the building space and the cool air conditioning.”

The de Florez building, when it was dedicated 25 years ago, was regarded as the center of excellence for simulation and training technology. Taking rise amidst the digital age, the people of NSA Orlando experienced landmark advancements in technology as emails replaced handwritten correspondence, word processing antiquated typewriters and computer networks were established.

Still today, the people and the facilities that comprise the de Florez complex are making great strides in meeting the needs of tomorrow. A brand new Welcome Center located at 12217 Science Drive opened August 14.

The facility is able to issue

Continued on page 11



U.S. Navy Photo/NSA Orlando

More than 100 members of the Naval Support Activity (NSA) Orlando-based workforce receive the “plank owner” accolade for serving 25 years on the installation since the opening of the de Florez complex Aug. 12, 1988.

PM TRADE and PEO STRI Welcome a New Leader

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

Incoming Col. Vince Malone took the reins of PEO STRI's Project Manager for Training Devices (PM TRADE) from outgoing Col. Michael Flanagan in a well-attended change of charter ceremony.

Dr. James Blake, PEO STRI's program executive officer, presided over the July 18 ceremony in the Partnership III building and provided keynote remarks. "As the saying goes, 'when one door closes another one opens,' and we welcome with open arms Col. Vince Malone to the PEO STRI family," he said.

PM TRADE is the Army's longest-standing project management office, and Malone stands as its fifteenth leader.

"Each day is a significant day for PEO STRI—as we support the world's greatest fighting force—and today is no different. In fact, today we get the remarkable chance to recognize the future of our organization's very beginnings; you see, our history lies in PM TRADE. And, PM TRADE's future lies in the hands of COL Malone," Blake said during his address.

Understanding PM TRADE's storied legacy, Malone said this assignment is an honor and a privilege. "I didn't know it at the time when I joined the Army, but MILES, which is used for training by the U.S. military and other armed forces around the world, evolved from this office," Malone said. A graduate of the United States Military Academy, he has served nearly 25 years in the Army in a variety of operational and acquisition positions, last assigned as the chief of plans and integration with the Army Central Support Element in Kabul, Afghanistan.

"I'm not sure what I'm getting myself into," Malone joked. "This guy [Flanagan] has boundless amounts of energy and is a hard act to follow.

"[Flanagan] reached out to me early and did everything he could do to make sure this transition was seamless," Malone said.

Flanagan, who led PM TRADE since July 2010, embraced collaboration throughout his tenure, signing a formal agreement on behalf of the Army with the U.S. Marine Corps to document and further the long-term synergy between the two services. The agreement legitimized the collaborative work being done under the

Live Training Transformation product line that provides state-of-the-art training systems to military forces using common reusable software components, interfaces, standards and processes.

In addition to the Marine Corps, 15 other major Army and U.S. defense organization have capitalized on the live training program, in which

the program has generated an estimated \$400 million in cost avoidances.

"Mike's significant contributions to PM TRADE, PEO STRI and the Army will live on for many years to come," Blake said.

Flanagan has since retired from an honorable 27 years of military service.



U.S. Army PEO STRI Photo/Doug Schaub

Col. Vince Malone addresses the PEO STRI workforce July 18 during the PM TRADE change of charter ceremony.



U.S. Army PEO STRI Photo/Doug Schaub

Dr. James Blake presents retired Col. Mike Flanagan with accolades, mementos and sincere parting words upon his departure.



U.S. Army PEO STRI Photo/Doug Schaub

Dr. James Blake (left), PEO STRI's program executive officer, presides over the Project Manager for Training Devices (PM TRADE) change of charter ceremony, in which retired Col. Mike Flanagan (center) hands over leadership to Col. Vince Malone.



The F/A-18A Hornet is displayed on Naval Support Activity Orlando outside of the Annex Building.

U.S. Navy Photo/NSA Orlando

Display Aircraft Once Flew With Famed Navy Blue Angels Aerobatic Team

By Rick Gregory, APEO Business Operations Support Staff

Once in service as one of the most lethal fighter and attack aircraft in the world, the F/A-18A Hornet on display outside the Annex building now serves as a resting place for birds and a playground for squirrels. Employees coming to and from work pass it every day with barely a glance.

Having once served as aircraft number six in the famed U.S. Navy Blue Angels aerial flight aerobatic team, it was later decommissioned and put on static display at Atlanta's Naval Air Station. Destined for the scrapheap with the closing of NAS Atlanta, it proved more cost effective to relocate it to Orlando as a static display. The Hornet was unloaded from a platform truck and placed in its current resting place on Aug. 5, 2009.

The F/A-18 Hornet series of aircraft (F/A standing for fighter/attack) was designed in the 1970s for aerial dogfights and to attack ground targets. The Hornet is a supersonic single seat (models A and C) and tandem seat (B and D models), twin engine, all weather aircraft that can be refueled in the air and can operate from either aircraft carriers or land bases.

The first flight of a Hornet took place on Nov. 18, 1978, followed in March 1979 by Lt. Cmdr. John Padgett becoming the first Navy pilot to fly an F/A-18. Since then, the venerable aircraft has seen service in Bosnia, Kosovo, Libya, the Persian Gulf War, Operation Enduring Freedom

in Afghanistan and Operation Iraqi Freedom.

The aircraft's first use in combat action came in 1986 in a mission against Libyan air defenses during Operation Prairie Fire in which the U.S. Navy, through a show of force and military actions, denied the Libyan leader's assertion that the entire Gulf was Libya's territory. It was also in 1986 when the famed Blue Angels began using a modified version of the F/A-18 for their air shows and are still using the aircraft today.

One of the aircraft and its pilot made headlines around the world during the first day of Operation Desert Storm during the Persian Gulf War. Lt. Cmdr. Scott Speicher became the first casualty of the war when his F/A-18 Hornet was shot down on Jan. 17, 1991 approximately 100 miles west of Baghdad. While the remnants of the aircraft were discovered, Speicher was nowhere to be found. With rumors of him both being held captive by Iraq or buried in the desert, it wasn't until 18 years later, on Aug. 2, 2009, that his remains were found, having been buried by a Bedouin tribe shortly after the shoot down.

Later in the war, another F/A-18 and its pilot, Lt. Robert Dwyer, was lost over the North Persian Gulf with Dwyer being listed as killed in action.

Another former F/A-18 pilot, U.S. Navy Capt. Kenneth Ham, went on to become an astronaut as a member of a Discovery and Atlantis space shuttle teams.

FAST FACTS ABOUT THE F/A-18

- With the aircraft capable of attaining a maximum speed of 1,190 miles per hour, it could fly from Orlando to New York or Dallas in under an hour at an altitude of 40,000 feet.
- Depending on the version of the aircraft, it costs anywhere from \$27 million to \$57 million.
- Empty, the F/A-18 weighs 23,000 pounds and has a maximum takeoff weight of 51,900 pounds.
- More than 1,480 F/A-18s have been built and are also used by Australia, Canada, Finland, Kuwait, Malaysia, Spain and Switzerland.
- F/A-18 Hornets are currently operating in 37 tactical squadrons from air stations worldwide and from 10 aircraft carriers.
- During combat, Hornets taking direct hits from surface-to-air missiles, recover successfully, are able to be repaired quickly, and can fly again the next day, proving the aircraft's survivability.
- It is 56 feet long, 15 feet, 4 inches high and has a wingspan of 40 feet.



Taking Care of Employees is the First Priority for the Personnel Resources Office

By Rick Gregory, APEO Business Operations Support Staff

Sam Walton, the late founder of Walmart, once gave a rather simple explanation of why the retail giant is so successful.

“We’re all working together. That’s the secret,” he said bluntly.

Anyone speaking with Lisa Taylor, PEO STRI’s personnel resources manager, about her team in the Personnel Resources Office will quickly learn that she has the same feeling about their success.

With a team of five dedicated employees serving the vast personnel needs of approximately 850 civilian and military teammates, she said it takes teamwork to be successful in every interaction they have with each individual. Failure for her group, she said, is not an option.

“The key to success for my team is that, while we are very small, everyone understands that we are a service organization. They execute our mission as conscientiously as any team I have ever known,” she explained. “They are a dynamic team who is cross-trained in each other’s jobs. They understand human resources requirements. They care; and they get [the job] done.”

She said their primary mission is taking care of the personnel issues that affect the organization, and to her and her team, it’s all about the people.

“When people ask me who I work for, I could easily say the PEO, DPEO or the BOO, but I think that’s incomplete because I believe my team is the critical link between leadership and the employees,” Taylor pointed out. “Certainly, the leaders are providing good, solid directions because they understand the tenets of effective leadership, but they also have empowered us to work directly for the employees and their collective interests.”

She emphasized that every employee in PEO STRI matters to her and her team, regardless of their position.

“We don’t judge people by the position or grade they are in,” she explained.

“Take the cleaning team for instance. I can tell you every one of their names. That’s because they matter. If you think they don’t matter, let them not show up for work for a couple of weeks!”

Taylor is especially proud of how her team is so conscientious about working with the employees.

“Regardless of who is calling or emailing



U.S. Army PEO STRI Photo/Doug Schaub

Lisa Taylor, PEO STRI’s personnel resources manager, pins on the new rank for Master Sgt. Keyon McDonald. She said she was honored that a Soldier would ask her to be a part of his special day.

us, and regardless of what their question is, we respond and we won’t respond with an ‘I don’t know’ answer. We are going to research and find the correct answer until the employee is taken care of even if they may not like the answer.”

One example she gave was when her team of five was faced with the unknowns of the pending furlough.

She said since it had been so long since the government instituted an administrative furlough, there were no real experts to turn to for answers. Her team, along with their normal workload, had to quickly do research and become the resident experts who could answer questions from the nearly 800 civilian employees who would be adversely impacted in the furlough process. She’s quick to brag on how proud she is of how her team handled that challenge.

“Our team was more than ready to handle the issues arising with furloughs,” she said. “Everyone on our team had a role in issuing personal written notices to every civilian employee and ensuring their payroll was coded correctly so they wouldn’t be more negatively impacted than they were already with a 20 percent loss in pay. For instance, when we went into the system and found that some employees

had not coded their records for furlough, we called them to ensure their records were correct. That’s the level of service we strive to provide.”

When not dealing with unexpected major challenges like the furlough, her team is busy processing various personnel actions such as retirements, awards, payroll, family medical leave, evaluations and other requirements that are inherent with most organizations.

While processing the various civilian personnel actions, they are handled through three separate personnel systems, not counting the one they use to assist the military members assigned to PEO STRI.

“Most of our employees are covered in the Acquisition Demonstration system, while others, such as the graduates from the Acquisition Academy are in the General Schedule system,” Taylor explained. “Then you have the folks out at Redstone Arsenal, Ala., who use a totally different personnel system called the Defense Civilian Intelligence Personnel System. My team has to know all the elements of the different systems to be able to backfill for a team member who may be out of the office.”

Taylor said that dealing with a constantly

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PEO STRI Engineers Host West Point Cadets for a Summer Internship Program

By Beth Thompson, PEO STRI's Engineering Directorate

Every summer beginning in June, West Point cadets report to PEO STRI for their Academic Individual Advanced Development Internships (AIADI) with the engineering directorate.

For the past two years, Rob Parrish, deputy director of engineering (virtual), has overseen the PEO STRI/United States Military Academy (USMA) Summer Cadet Program.

Based on the cadet's major course of study in the engineering department at West Point

and their military branch preferences, Parrish aligns each cadet with an appropriate program management office. This summer, the seven cadets who participated in AIADI were assigned to PM TRADE, PM ConSim and PM CATT for their three-week internships.

During their internships at PEO STRI, the cadets were assigned to various programs within each office and had a military sponsor to assist them in understanding the acquisition

process. It was also emphasized how PEO STRI's mission directly supports the Soldier.

Many of the cadets were afforded the opportunity to travel with their respective project teams to observe and be a part of testing events and site surveys. A portion of their time was spent experiencing multiple simulators in the various live, virtual and constructive domains throughout PEO STRI and Research Park. The internship culminated in the presentation of the Systems Decision Process group project, a requirement of the USMA.

From the cadet's perspective, some of the key benefits to this intern program include a greater knowledge of the Acquisition Corps including its structure and vital role in supporting the Soldier; increased awareness and importance of PEO STRI's mission to the Army including the growing demand and benefits of simulators and other advanced training technologies; enhanced briefing skills to Army leadership; and the application of systems engineering processes in a real-world environment.

From the PEO STRI perspective, some of the key benefits include gaining new and innovative engineering insight to various system processes from a group of highly-educated students versed in the latest system engineering methodologies, tools and techniques; exposing future Army officers to the PEO STRI mission and the key benefits of simulation, training and instrumentation; and serving as a conduit into the USMA research network, possibly leading to further work on a year-long cadet senior project.

"We are always very appreciative to have the opportunity to host the cadets and give them a firsthand look at the powerful impact our training aids, devices, simulators and simulations have on our Soldiers as they train for their next mission," Parrish said. "All seven of this year's cadets were extremely grateful of the time our PMs took out of their busy schedules to interact and mentor them during their visit."



Courtesy Photos/PM CATT

[1] West Point Cadets listen closely as the dynamics of the Air Mission Trainer (AMT) Rotary Wing simulator are explained. [2] West Point Cadet Daniel Cortes experiences a rotary wing simulator as part of the AVCATT Team. [3] Cadets Coree Aten, Ella Mason, and Nicholas Bruno prepare to engage the enemy with the Engagement Skills Trainer (EST). [4] PEO STRI Foreign Military Sales Logistics Manager Teddy Lujan explains how his prior military service as an Army Ranger has provided him with a great perspective on the acquisition process.

Newest Acquisition Academy Class Joins the Ranks at STRI

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



JEAN BURMESTER

ACQUISITION ACADEMY DEAN

HOMETOWN: San Jose, Ca.
EDUCATION: B.S., Rollins College, and MBA, Florida Institute of Technology
PREVIOUS WORK EXPERIENCE: Director, ADL Co-Lab; senior project director, AVCATT



The seventh iteration of PEO STRI's Acquisition Academy kicked off July 29 with 16 developmental employees joining the organization. The employees, selected from a pool of 2,300 applicants, will serve in the roles of acquisition logisticians, system engineers, operations research analysts, contract specialists and program analysts upon successful completion of the Academy. The graduation ceremony is set for Oct. 17.



DANIEL ALONSO

HOMETOWN: Merritt Island, Fla.
EDUCATION: B.A. in organizational management, Warner University
WORK EXPERIENCE: Space systems operations, U.S. Air Force
A2 TRACK: Logistics management specialist



BRENDEN BARBER

HOMETOWN: Stratford, Conn.
EDUCATION: B.S. in finance, University of South Florida
WORK EXPERIENCE: Department of Veterans Affairs
A2 TRACK: Contract specialist



JAMES BERBATI

HOMETOWN: Chicago, Ill.
EDUCATION: Business administration, Fort Hays State University, Kan.
WORK EXPERIENCE: Armed security
A2 TRACK: Contract specialist



GEOFFREY BLACK

HOMETOWN: Downey, Calif.
EDUCATION: M.B.A., University of South Carolina
WORK EXPERIENCE: Civil engineer, English teacher
A2 TRACK: Contract specialist



MIGUEL CARRION

HOMETOWN: Caguas, Puerto Rico
EDUCATION: B.S. in information technology management
WORK EXPERIENCE: Army Sergeant Major (25 years of service)
A2 TRACK: Logistics management specialist



JENNIFER DIAZ-SANCHEZ

HOMETOWN: Miami, Fla.
EDUCATION: B.S. in accounting and auditing forensics
WORK EXPERIENCE: Executive assistant
A2 TRACK: Budget analyst



HANNA FELDMAN

HOMETOWN: Bradenton, Fla.
EDUCATION: B.A. in mathematics, Rollins College; M. Eng in operations research, Cornell University
WORK EXPERIENCE: Recent graduate
A2 TRACK: Operations research systems analyst



STEVEN FIGUEROA

HOMETOWN: Orlando, Fla.
EDUCATION: B.A. in business administration, Columbia College
WORK EXPERIENCE: Owner/operator, Reliable Window Tinting
A2 TRACK: Contract specialist



PIUS KIM

HOMETOWN: Carrollton, Texas
EDUCATION: Industrial engineering, Northwestern University
WORK EXPERIENCE: Federal Mogul Corporation; CALIBRE Systems
A2 TRACK: Systems engineer



JANAY MILLS

HOMETOWN: Columbus, Ohio
EDUCATION: M.A. in procurement and acquisitions management, Webster University
WORK EXPERIENCE: Human resources; Army aviation battle captain
A2 TRACK: Contract specialist



PRIMILA RAJAKULASINGHAM

HOMETOWN: Orlando, Fla.
EDUCATION: Bachelor of business (finance), Murdoch University, Australia; M.S. in Human Capital Management, Capella University, Minn.
WORK EXPERIENCE: Financial readiness program manager, Army Garrison, Germany
A2 TRACK: Program analyst



ELLISON RILEY

HOMETOWN: Pensacola, Fla.
EDUCATION: B.S. in finance and management, University of South Florida
WORK EXPERIENCE: Transportation logistics
A2 TRACK: Logistics management specialist



THEODORE ROGNES

HOMETOWN: Anchorage, Alaska
EDUCATION: Business management, University of Alaska
WORK EXPERIENCE: Department of the Interior; Bureau of Land Management
A2 TRACK: Logistics management specialist



KAREN SORAPURU

HOMETOWN: Clermont, Fla.
EDUCATION: B.S. in business administration, Walden University, Minn.
WORK EXPERIENCE: Human research compliance and oversight
A2 TRACK: Contract specialist



RICHARD TERRELL

HOMETOWN: Millington, Tenn.
EDUCATION: M.S. in aerospace logistics, Sothern Oklahoma State University
WORK EXPERIENCE: FedEx
A2 TRACK: Logistics management specialist



CHRIS WINDLER

HOMETOWN: Cocoa Beach, Fla.
EDUCATION: B.S. in engineering, M.S. in modeling and simulation, both from UCF
WORK EXPERIENCE: Boeing
A2 TRACK: Systems engineer



Army Crushes Navy in Annual SHAPE Softball Game by 10 Runs

By Jakki Gaudio, PEO STRI Program Analyst supporting PM ConSim

The Army softball team brought home another victory in the annual SHAPE softball game July 17. Despite a rainstorm, a questionable umpire strike zone, and a potential connotation caused by an open gate, the Army took a strong lead in the first inning and continued to widen the gap with some noteworthy plays.

The Army defense was strong with Bill Monroe on the mound and Army players in the field sacrificing their bodies to make plays, leading to several scoreless innings for the Navy.

Jason Graham had an unforgettable dive at first base, and Billy Jensen's near splits in left centerfield clinched two important, and entertaining, outs in the game.

The Army's powerhouse hitters were back in full force this year. Manny Colon's triple and Billy Jensen's in-the-park homerun sealed the deal for an Army win.

The final score was 15 to 5.



U.S. Army PEO STRI Photo/Doug Schaub

The Army team celebrates a 15-5 win over the Navy in the annual SHAPE softball game July 17 at Red Bug Lake Park in Oviedo, Fla. Pictured in the back row: Billy Jensen, Jason Malak, Brian Serra, Adrian Ravelo, Jason Graham, Michael Craven, Bobby Verica, Sgt. First Class Manny Colon, Bill Monroe, Steve Bushway and Mr. Rob Reyenga, deputy PEO; front row: Jackie Bushway and Jakki Gaudio.

WHAT:



WHEN: 10 OCTOBER 2013

WHERE: Partnership III, Room 321 A&B

WHEN: 9:30-11 a.m.

SAVE *the* DATE

JAN FEB MAR APR MAY JUN JUL AUG SEP OCT NOV DEC



What do you want to hear about? Do you have a PEO STRI-related question you want answered? Do you have a suggestion that would improve the workplace?

Send topics, questions and suggestions to Gina Guerzon at georgina.guerzon@us.army.mil by 19 September 2013.





U.S. Army Photo/Sgt. Michael J. MacLeod

Sgt. Jonathan Eddy, a team leader with the 82nd Airborne Division's 1st Brigade Combat Team, mans an M240B machine gun atop a Humvee in a virtual convoy trainer at Fort Bragg, N.C. Eddy's company trained for three days on the tactical trainer in preparation for a live-fire convoy exercise.

Virtual Convoy Simulator Maximizes Training Time

By Sgt. Michael J. MacLeod, 82nd Airborne Division

When retired paratrooper Ronnie Bland asks, "What's not to like about playing video games all day?" he is only being half facetious.

As the senior enabler on a life-sized, virtual convoy-skills trainer called the Special Operations Reconfigurable Vehicle Tactical Trainer, Bland likes knowing that the skills young Soldiers pick up in the simulator may someday save a life or help to complete a mission.

"I wish we had something like this when I was in," said the former signal Soldier, who deployed for Desert Shield/Desert Storm and twice for Operation Iraqi Freedom.

Housed in a half-dozen trailers on the edge of Fort Bragg's weapons ranges, the convoy simulator incorporates four life-sized Humvees, each surrounded by screens with synchronized projected video of a mission scenario.

Each Humvee is outfitted with a field radio, GPS-based Blue Force Tracker, and weapon options that include an assortment of machine guns, grenade launchers, rifles and anti-tank devices.

"We see the tactical trainer as a way for our Soldiers to learn the fundamentals of battle drills without having to dispatch vehicles and draw weapons," said Capt. Robyn Boehringer,

commander of a company that provides forward support to paratroopers with the 82nd Airborne Division's 2nd Battalion, 504th Parachute Infantry Regiment, part of the 1st Brigade Combat Team.

When Soldiers join the Army as part of the quartermaster corps, they're not really thinking about being on the road in combat zones and employing infantry-like tactics nearly every day, but as part of a forward support company, that's often what a deployment is like, Boehringer said.

"With my [noncommissioned officers], I'm giving them baseline infantry tactics that will hopefully save their lives," she said.

The virtual training was a prelude to live-fire training her company is scheduled to participate in within a month or two.

Inside the trainer, the life-sized graphics, realistic sounds and pneumatically-induced weapon recoil can be tailored to a unit's requests, Bland said. One room houses an array of monitors that acts as a tactical operations center during missions and as a debriefing room for after-action reviews where missions can be replayed from a variety of viewpoints on several monitors simultaneously.

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FOUR FAMILIAR MILITARY OFFICERS SELECTED FOR PROMOTION TO COLONEL

The U.S. Army officially announced Aug. 29 that four of PEO STRI's current or recently departed lieutenant colonels were chosen for promotion to the rank of colonel. Lt. Col. (promotable) Mark Evans serves as PM CATT's product manager for Ground Combat Tactical Trainers. Lt. Col. (promotable) Freddie King is assigned to PM ConSim as the product manager for Warrior Training Integration. Lt. Col. (promotable) Charles Worshim recently departed PEO STRI where he served as PM TRADE's product manager for Combat Training Instrumentation Systems. Lt. Col. Rich Haggerty (promotable) also recently departed PEO STRI for an assignment with the U.S. Special Operations Command.



Lt. Col. (P)
Mark Evans



Lt. Col. (P)
Freddie King



Lt. Col. (P)
Charles Worshim



Lt. Col. (P)
Rich Haggerty

CITIZEN STRI

QUESTION:

“Summer’s a great time to relax and read a novel. What’s your all-time favorite book, and why?”



“I read non-fiction, however I don’t have a favorite. I gravitate towards books that teach me about leadership, investing and relationships. This past summer I read *Changing the Rules of Engagement: Inspiring Stories of Courage and Leadership from Women in the Military* by Martha LaGuardia-Kotite and *Linchpin: Are You Indispensable?* by Seth Godin.

MASTER SGT. TRACY DROWNE,
ACQUISITION CENTER



“My all-time favorite book is *Whispers* by Dean Koontz. I enjoyed reading this book because although it looks like some supernatural things are taking place throughout, near the end Koontz inserts a twist that makes it all plausible and believable. If you saw it coming, you are a better sleuth than me.”

ALLEN HANSEN,
PM ITTS



“My favorite would have to be *Lion of Ireland* by Morgan Llywelyn because of the rich detail and varied descriptions. Because of my Celtic roots, I was intrigued by the story of how Ireland was united for the first time under the Irish King Brian Boru in the 10th and 11th centuries, the ancestor of the all the O’Briens.”

BILL WALTERS,
PM ITTS

Want your opinion heard? Answer September/October’s question!

What’s your favorite movie, and why?

The question is open to the entire workforce. Send your response to Kristen.McCullough@us.army.mil and put *Citizen STRI* in the subject line.

HOLIDAYS Events

Sept. 2 Labor Day Holiday

Sept. 5 Army Hosts Colors

Oct. 3 Army Hosts Colors

Oct. 10 Town Hall Meeting

Oct. 14 ... Columbus Day Holiday

Oct. 17 A2 Graduation

Oct. 21-23 AUSA
Annual Meeting

Oct. 31 Halloween

INSIDE PEO STRI

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U.S. Navy Photo/NSA Orlando

NSA Orlando dedicates its newly opened Welcome Center Aug. 14. The facility, which houses Common Access Card and identification card capabilities, along with off-site meeting space, is located outside of the de Florez's main gate on Science Drive.

Common Access Cards for military and civilian personnel and identification cards for military retirees and their dependents.

"By combining two Common Access Card issuing stations under one roof, this state-of-the-art new facility greatly improves our ability to serve customers," Nakagawa said.

The new facility replaces two single-station identification card offices, previously located in the lobby of the Partnership I building and inside the de Florez complex.

The facility also contains two modern meeting facilities that will allow NSA Orlando tenants to hold meetings with businesses that are bidding on government contracts.

During the month of August, the Army-Navy crew aboard NSA Orlando had the opportunity to look back by celebrating a silver anniversary and advance forward with the new pass and identification facility, happily moving into September without the dark furlough cloud casting a shadow over the installation's rather sunny skies.

VIRTUAL CONVOY SIMULATOR *continued from page 9*

Soldiers can practice maintaining vehicle-spacing intervals, using the radios, plotting routes, sending messages on the Blue Force Tracker, and reacting to enemy contact from roadside bombs, small-arms fire, tanks, aircraft and minefields.

"With this system, the Soldiers have more time for training and less for administrative," Bland said. "He's not thinking, 'I've got to clean my weapon. I've got to clean the vehicle. When are we going to get done?'"

The trainer is ideal for new Soldiers who

changing regulatory environment is a sign of the times during budgetary restraints and is the biggest challenge her office faces.

"Things are changing daily," she said. "One day we are on a hiring freeze with some needed exceptions, then the next day you can't put in any exceptions or you need to do this or that. Of course, we are flexible and remain so."

Having a small group of employees to serve all of PEO STRI, handling unexpected additional workloads, and facing daily challenges aren't the things that keep her up at night, though. She said new guidance that creates challenges to helping employees and increases the difficulties in the PEO accomplishing critical support of our Soldiers is what occupies her thoughts at night.

"When new guidance comes down from the Department of the Army or the Office of Personnel Management, I do a lot of research and reading until I understand its implications fully. Until I have a firm grasp on the new guidance and exactly how it will impact STRI, I can't rest.

"The other thing that keeps me up is when an employee comes to my office for assistance with a problem," she explained. "When an employee has a problem, I put on their shoes. When you do that you walk around with their problems and understand how it impacts them. I don't want to let an employee down because in almost all cases failing the employee hurts the employees, the leadership and our organization. If I can't help an employee with a legitimate problem, it keeps me up at night."

Taylor is quick to not take credit for the successes of her office and gives high praise to her predecessor, Mae Hazelton.

"The dynamics of this office were here before I arrived," she said. "The employees were accustomed to the level of service started by my predecessor. There was no way I was going to come in and change that."

With that said, she has a set a personal goal for the future for her office.

"My goal is to never have an employee experience how not getting something done for them will negatively impact them," she said. "They will never see that. We will get it done. Leadership demands it."

Her staff members feel equally dedicated to her goal.

Jacquie Hauck used the inspirational message titled, "A Message to Garcia," to explain her feelings about working in the personnel resources office. Written by Elbert Hubbard in 1899, it speaks about a man who, without question, accepted the directive to deliver a letter to a Gen. Garcia who was at an unknown location in Cuba during the war between Spain and the U.S. Spending four days trekking through the jungle in search of the general, the man knew failure was not an option. He got the job done.

"Hubbard wrote, 'The world cries out for such: he is needed, and needed badly – the man who can carry a message to Garcia,'" Hauck said. "I know that every single member of this team is willing and able to 'carry the message to Garcia' and it shows. I am so proud of my team and my organization. I proudly wear the PEO STRI t-shirt!"

Bernadette Kirchner, another member of the team, echoes that sentiment.

"What I like most about working in the personnel resources office is the work we do. There are always new challenges and things to learn as the personnel field is always evolving," she said. "I also like working with the people on the team and the employees who we service. I enjoy going the extra step to get employees answers to their questions, but try to give some additional information that may help them in the future."

While Sam Walton never worked for PEO STRI's Personnel Resources team, his quote, "We let folks know we're interested in them and that they're vital to us. Because they are," sounds like something every member of the team would say.

have never deployed, said Sgt. 1st Class Robert Anderson, one of Boehringer's platoon sergeants.

With three deployments and nearly 20 years of service under his belt, Anderson was impressed with how collective skills were learned by his Soldiers inside the tactical trainer.

"It gives them confidence that the man to my left and right, front and rear, knows what he is doing," Anderson said. "They know what each other will do in a given situation."

Anderson was complimentary toward Bland and his associates who operate the facility,

particularly on how they tailored the virtual experience for his platoon's needs.

"I tell my Soldiers that in combat they're never going to see all the things these guys throw at them all at once, but they might. It's challenging. I have to remind them, they're not failing. They're learning," Anderson said.

Bland said the facility is easy to book, and even a squad leader can call him to arrange for an afternoon or several days of training.

All of the training is unit led. Bland and his staff act solely as enablers, he said.

TEAM ORLANDO IN PHOTOS



U.S. Army PEO STRI Photo/Doug Schaub

The Acquisition Academy class participates Aug. 2 in the University of Central Florida's Challenge Course where attendees engage in a series of obstacles to promote team building and leadership development.



U.S. Army PEO STRI Photo/Doug Schaub

Col. Harry Buhl (center), the project manager for PM CATT, presides over the change of charter ceremony for the Product Manager for Special Operations Forces Training Systems July 11, as Lt. Col. (promotable) Rich Haggerty (left) hands over the responsibility to Lt. Col. Paul Weizer.



U.S. Army PEO STRI Photo/Doug Schaub

Ms. Monica Shephard, a member of the senior executive service serving on the Joint Staff, speaks with members of the newest Acquisition Academy class Aug. 14 during her official visit to PEO STRI.



U.S. Army PEO STRI Photo/Doug Schaub

Rich McGovern (right) retires from federal service after 35 years in a Sept. 1 ceremony presided over by Russ McBride, the program manager for PM Field OPS.



U.S. Army PEO STRI Photo/Doug Schaub

Jon Behan, a logistics and training services expert serving under PM Field OPS, retires July 3 after 30 years of civil service.



U.S. Army PEO STRI Photo/Doug Schaub

Master Sgt. Tracy Drowne, a contract specialist, is recognized by Joe Giunta, director of PEO STRI's Acquisition Center, for her work upon her departure from the organization Aug. 30.