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## WORTH REPEATING

“ I've been very fortunate to help liberate a country while in combat and make history. Well now I get to make history again, but in a total new battlefield, in the sports arena. I get to show the world a whole new side of a U.S. Soldier. I am going to show the world that you can knock a Soldier down, but you can't knock him out.”

— Sgt. 1st Class

**Josh Olson,**  
a Paralympic shooter and a member of the U.S. Army Marksmanship Unit participating in the 2012 Paralympic Games opening ceremonies Aug. 29 in London, will officially become the first combat-injured active-duty service member to ever take part in the event.

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U.S. Army Image/Dwain Fletcher Graphics

PEO STRI's Public Affairs Office establishes a Facebook Page for the organization to share relevant news and information with PEO STRI stakeholders.

## PEO STRI Goes Social with Facebook

By Kristen McCullough, PEO STRI Public Affairs Officer

Every company from Starbucks to Samsung has a Facebook page. Even federal entities like the FBI, FEMA and the U.S. Army connect with people through Facebook. In keeping with the current trend of expeditiously sharing news and information, PEO STRI established its own page in July.

“People expect news to find them through social media platforms, so when breaking

news happens, one of the first places they turn is social media. Social media can be a valuable tool for Army organizations. It helps organizations and Army commands establish credibility, accessibility and authenticity,” Maj. Gen. Stephen R. Lanza, Army chief of public affairs, wrote in the Army's Social Media Handbook dated June 2012.

PEO STRI employees, industry

stakeholders, academic partners and the general public alike are able to connect with the organization's Facebook page, which can be found by searching for “U.S. Army PEO STRI” in the search bar at [www.facebook.com](http://www.facebook.com). The page serves as a social community designed to facilitate conversation, engage the population and keep people interested in the discussion

Continued on page 11



## An Independence Day and Summer Safety Message from the PEO

Happy Fourth of July to my PEO STRI family!

Our great nation was born July 4, 1776 on the premise that all men were created free and equal and that the government derives its power from the people. Still today, 236 years later, those ideals embody why Americans love their country.

As Soldiers, civilians and contractors, we're blessed to not only serve our country, but have a unique perspective of American patriotism. Each day at work, we're reminded how devoted we are to our country and that Americans everywhere have a similar love for our nation.

In our personal lives, I'm sure each of us sees marks of patriotism. How many times recently have you tuned into a local radio station to hear Lee Greenwood's "God Bless the USA" or Toby Keith's "American Soldier"?

As we celebrated Independence Day this summer, how many of you – and your fellow Americans – were decked out in red, white and blue? I can only imagine the droves of people who enjoyed hamburgers, hot dogs and fireworks. Our nation was born like no other, and our celebrations certainly show how much we love America.

Throughout this summer, please remember to keep safety at the forefront of your mission. I'm happy that many of you took, or will be taking, some well-deserved time off, but unfortunately this time of year represents the most dangerous period for the Army's off-duty personnel.

Every single one of you are an integral member of the PEO STRI workforce, so I kindly ask that you consider each of these summer safety tips.

- Remain alert while driving or boating, especially throughout the summer as our highways and waterways are busier. Consuming alcohol while operating a car, motorcycle or boat is never a good idea.
- I encourage you to use caution as you exercise, play sports or engage in other outdoor activities. As you know all too well, Florida's heat and humidity are intense. Consider drinking plenty of clear fluids, wearing sunscreen and refraining from outdoor activities during the sun's peak hours.
- Stay vigilant while lighting or watching fireworks, grilling, swimming or participating in any other activity that summertime brings.

A moment's inattention or an unwise split-second decision can have tragic consequences, so please remain alert... after all, you are a key member of our PEO STRI family.

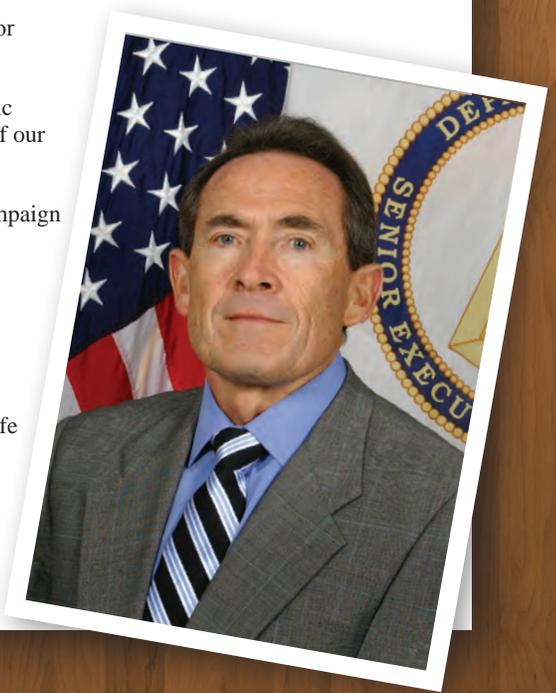
I encourage you to become familiar with the Army's Summer Safety Campaign Plan at <https://safety.army.mil/multimedia/CAMPAIGNSINITIATIVES/SpringSummerSafety2012/tabid/2310/Default.aspx>.

As we celebrated America's independence, we're proud of what this day means to us. We wore red, white and blue. Some of us played Lee Greenwood or Toby Keith. We grilled, and shot off fireworks.

Above all, though, let us remember to keep ourselves and our families safe while enjoying all the fun that summer brings.

Army strong,

Jim Blake



# VIRTUAL WORLD COMES TO LIFE IN TRAINING SIMULATOR AT FORT BRAGG

By Maj. Loren Bymer, 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 82nd Airborne Division Public Affairs Officer

The Army's responsibility is to provide realistic training for the individual Soldier while mitigating risk. With emerging technology of the virtual world, this is becoming a reality.

One of the first-ever, fully immersive virtual simulation training system for Soldiers was fielded to Fort Bragg, N.C., mid-July. This system is known as the Dismounted Soldier Training System (DSTS), and will be available for leaders to enhance their Soldiers' training in a fully immersive, virtual reality environment.

This virtual system allows leaders at the squad level to maintain their squad's proficiency of their assigned tasks in a timely and safe manner, even in the event new Soldiers arrive to the unit.

"This system gives the power of simulation to the squad in order to close the gap of individual Soldier training and collective training," said John Matthews, project director for the Assistant Project Manager for Close Combat Tactical Trainers. "This system enhances training, it does not replace it."

The ability to train with this system allows the "reset" time to be cut down which allows the ability to get more repetitions in a shorter amount of time and the ability to review each mission on a television screen to enhance the after-action review process upon completion of each mission.

"You can mold the situation, and you can do it as many times as you want and give younger guys a chance to step up and be leaders. I can see us in the future using this system to conduct rehearsals," said Sgt. Charles Haywood, team leader, 1st Battalion, 505th Parachute Infantry Regiment, 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 82nd Airborne Division.

With a wide variety of environments, and the ability to insert specific entities into the scenarios, the options for training opportunities are virtually limitless; rehearsals for missions or live-fire exercises are just a couple of examples. Currently, the programmed training environments include mountainous, wooded and desert. These are intended to simulate places like Afghanistan and Iraq, but are not limited to only these specific scenarios.

"I think everybody accomplished the missions, minus some casualties. But that's part of [the training]; retrain and try again. [The DSTS] would make part of a well-rounded training cycle, a little bit of this on top of field time can get you different views and situations," said Haywood.



U.S. Army Photo/Sgt. Joseph Guenther

**Paratroopers of 1st Battalion, 505th Parachute Infantry Regiment, 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 82nd Airborne Division, conduct simulated missions July 26, 2012, using the Dismounted Soldier Training System, a virtual reality environment with unlimited mission possibilities.**

The system itself is divided into five distinct work areas. The Soldier Simulated Training area is a 10-foot by 10-foot area with a manned module pad, which provides feedback for the Soldier to safely move in his or her space.

The Exercise Control Workstation is the brains behind the system and allows the trainer to create, modify and execute training exercises. This workstation controls each person participating in the training.

Virtual Soldier Multi-Function Workstations allow additional virtual Soldiers, vehicles and neutral or opposing forces to participate in the training and is controlled by a keyboard and mouse by an additional individual.

The Semi-Automated Forces Workstation gives the trainer the option to create additional static items like furniture and buildings or items that are animated such as dogs and birds, inside the virtual world. There can also be modifications made during the scenario like adding an improvised explosive device or more vehicles and combatants.



U.S. Army Photo/Sgt. Joseph Guenther

**Paratroopers of 1st Battalion, 505th Parachute Infantry Regiment, 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 82nd Airborne Division, conduct simulated missions July 26, 2012, using the Dismounted Soldier Training System, a virtual reality environment with unlimited mission possibilities.**



U.S. Army Photo/Sgt. Joseph Guenther

**Staff Sgt. Casey Liffbrig, a squad leader in 1st Battalion, 505th Parachute Infantry Regiment, 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 82nd Airborne Division, briefs his squad on the operation order on the Dismounted Soldier Training System before entering a simulated battlefield environment July 26, 2012.**

"You can do things on this system that you can't [train on] as often here as in the field like air assault missions and capturing [high value targets], whether it be the weather or having to get ranges," Haywood said.

Finally, there is an after-action review area to allow for an assessment of the scenario. Soldiers can watch as the events unfold with radio communication between squad members and shots fired. This area can be configured to a real-time station that allows visitors to witness what is taking place in the virtual world.

The initial phase of the fielding will involve delivering three systems to the Fort Bragg's Virtual Training Facility and validating them by the 1st Battalion, 505th Parachute Infantry Regiment, 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 82nd Airborne Division. Upon being validated, other units on the installation will be able to use them. Additional systems will be delivered to Army installations worldwide for Soldier use in the following weeks.

# Do's and Don'ts for Military, Federal Employee Voters

By Laura Cushler, Attorney-Advisor

The presidential election is in a few months and the campaign ads are really heating up. Politics is at the top of the news and on everyone's minds.

You may wonder what the rules are for federal employees who would like to take part in the political process. This article describes the dos and don'ts of participating in political campaigns for federal employees and military members.

Federal employees in the Department of Defense MAY:

- Run as candidates for public office in nonpartisan elections;
- Register and vote as they choose;
- Participate in voter registration drives;
- Express opinions about candidates and issues;
- Contribute money to political organizations;
- Attend political fundraising functions;
- Attend and be active at political rallies and meetings;
- Join and be an active member of a political party or club;
- Sign nominating petitions;
- Campaign for or against candidates and issues, including placing bumper stickers on personally owned vehicles;
- Make campaign speeches for candidates in partisan elections;
- Distribute campaign literature (off-duty and off work premises); and
- Hold office in political clubs or parties, including serving as a convention delegate.

Federal employees in the Department of Defense MAY NOT:

- Wear political buttons on duty;
- Engage in political activity while on duty, while wearing an official uniform or while using a government vehicle;
- Use official government resources, such as e-mail, to send political information to other employees or engage in political activity;
- Use official authority or influence to interfere with an election;
- Solicit, accept or receive political contributions on duty or from subordinate employees;

- Solicit or discourage political activity of anyone doing business with the agency;
- Run as a candidate for public office in partisan elections.

.....  
*For more information, see the Legal Tab on the Knowledge Center under the topic entitled "Political Activities."*  
.....

**THE HATCH ACT**  
**SOCIAL MEDIA GUIDELINES**

**CAN DO'S**

- Write a blog supporting or opposing a political candidate or party while you're not on duty or in a federal building.
- Fill in the field provided for "political views" on your Facebook profile.
- If you have subordinates who are "friends," you may advocate for or against a political party, group or candidate on your page if the comments are directed to all your friends.
- Post a link to the website of a political party, group or candidate on your or another's page if any page in the chain does not solicit, accept or receive political contributions.
- Become a "friend," "fan" or "like" the Facebook (or similar) page of a political party, group or candidate.
- Follow the social White House Twitter account during election season.
- Follow the Tweets of a political party, group or candidate while not on duty or in a federal building.
- Use an alias, but you must still comply with the Hatch Act just as if using your real name.

**CAN'T DO'S**

- Identify your official title or use your status as a federal employee to bolster a political party, group or candidate that you post on your blogs.
- Suggest or ask that readers of your blog make contributions to a political party, candidate or political group.
- Post links to the website contribution page of a political party, candidate or political group.
- Solicit, accept or receive campaign contributions, to include sharing invitations for fundraising.
- Direct political statements to subordinate employees or a subset of friends that includes subordinates, for example, by sending a Facebook message.
- Send your subordinate employees an e-mail that is directed at the success or failure of a political party, political group or candidate.
- Post any comments that would encourage others to donate to a political party, group or candidate.
- Suggest at work that others "like," "friend," or "follow" a political party, group or candidate, or accept an invitation to a political event. This includes forwarding an invitation.
- Create a Facebook or Twitter page in your official capacity to advocate for or against a political party, political group or candidate on the page.

# Young Cancer Patient Takes Flight in Simulator

By Kristen McCullough, Public Affairs Officer

While members of the PEO STRI team realize their work is a vitally important aspect of training our Soldiers, sometimes that hard work has residual benefits. That was the case recently when a lieutenant colonel stationed in Afghanistan fulfilled a promise he had made to a 9-year-old Kentucky boy who was facing a personal battle with cancer. "If you keep fighting your cancer, then I'll keep fighting the bad guys here," the officer wrote. "When I come home, I'll take you flying in a helicopter flight simulator." Read on to learn how the story unfolded.

As he perched eagerly in a chair at the Fort Campbell flight simulator July 17, it would be easy to mistake 9-year-old Adam Crider for any other boy his age. His slightly shaggy blond hair and baby-blue eyes that light up as quickly as his infectious smile spreads across his face belie the 18-month battle Adam and his family have endured.

Adam arrived at Fort Campbell at the invitation of Lt. Col. Scott Gerblick, the former commander of 7th General Support Aviation Battalion, 101st Aviation Regiment, 159th Combat Aviation Brigade. The two grew to know each other after Adam's 3rd grade class at Jack Anderson Elementary School sent a bundle of letters to Gerblick's unit while they were deployed to Afghanistan between January 2011 and January 2012.

"Hi. I'm Adam. I have cancer but life goes on," Adam wrote Sept. 8, 2011.

"Here I was, halfway through deployment, living in a plywood building, and I realized life's not so bad," said Gerblick, as he recalled reading Adam's letter for the first time.

## CHRISTMAS 2010

Adam was already on antibiotics for strep throat, and he was a bit sluggish – not at all typical of a child on Christmas day. Throughout the day his temperature fluctuated, peaking as high as 103.3 degrees, his father, Ken, recalled.

"His face was white as the floor," Ken said as he gestured to the linoleum floor of the 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault) Aviation Headquarters building. This was the first sign to Ken and his wife, Sue, that something was wrong.

By 6 a.m. the next day, Sue was searching for someplace to take Adam for a chest X-ray, convinced



U.S. Army 159th Combat Aviation Brigade photo/ Sgt. 1st Class Stephanie L. Carl

Adam Crider, a 9-year-old cancer patient from Gallatin, Tenn., flies the UH-60 Black Hawk flight simulator at Fort Campbell, Ky., July 17, 2012. Crider visited Fort Campbell after exchanging letters with Lt. Col. Scott Gerblick, the former commander of 7th Battalion, 101st Aviation Regiment, 159th Combat Aviation Brigade, during the unit's most recent deployment.

by his slight cough that he had pneumonia. In actuality, he had a softball-sized mass in his chest that was making it difficult to breathe.

"The doctors said it was fairly fast growing," Ken said. "They said it had probably only been there three or four months."

Ken said he and Sue re-examined it with each other, trying to figure out if they could have missed something that would have given them an earlier indicator, but the fever and cough were truly their only and earliest signs that Adam had T-Cell Lymphoblastic Lymphoma, a form of non-Hodgkins lymphoma.

From the time he was diagnosed, there was only one choice, "Be strong," Adam said.

## TREATMENT

Adam immediately entered into an aggressive treatment plan through Vanderbilt Hospital. Within a week, he'd already started treatment.

"Most people don't have any idea. If you don't have a sick kid, you don't know," Sue said.

Within six weeks, Sue said his hair had completely fallen out.

"He held onto it," she said. "When it was down to just the stragglers, we told him he looked like Charlie Brown, and it was probably time to let go."

Ken explained the spinal taps Adam frequently endured, one way for the doctors to ensure the disease wasn't manifesting in another part of his body.

"Do I get my Icee when I wake

up?" Adam would ask before his sessions.

Weekends were the worst. While Adam's friends were most likely out playing sports, which he'd been forced to give up, along with school, Adam was home retching up whatever may have been left in his stomach – the brutal aftermath of his Friday treatments.

"He'd take his medicine at 9 (p.m.)," said Sue. "He'd say 'No, I don't want to take it.'"

But he always did, and they said he always stayed positive. Meanwhile, they were facing their own struggle as parents, determined not to let him see their weakness. They would discuss the illness out of earshot, or they just wouldn't use "the C-word," as

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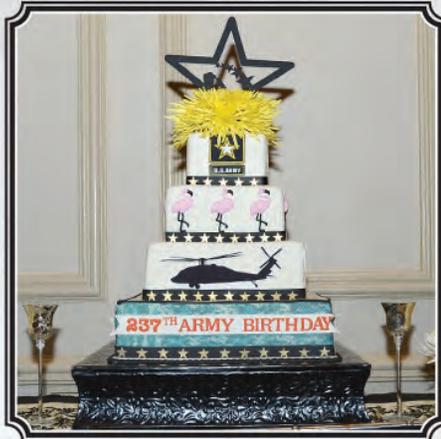
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# ARMY BIRTHDAY

Ball

AUSA Sunshine Chapter





# INTERNATIONAL PROGRAMS OFFICE SUPPORTS U.S. INTERESTS ABROAD

By Rick Gregory, APEO Business Operations Support Staff

While PEO STRI is best known for the procurement and fielding of training aids, devices, simulators and simulations to the U.S. military, one team in the workforce is quietly having a positive impact on improving foreign relations with other countries.

Led by John Daniele, one of the missions of the International Programs Office, part of the Customer Support Group, is providing training devices and services to countries around the world through the Foreign Military Sales (FMS) program which has an estimated annual sales volume of \$300 million.

Besides providing friendly countries the much needed training devices and services, the FMS program affords the residual benefits of improving foreign relations through developing long term, positive relationships with the foreign government entities and military forces. This comes into play both during the procurement process and when working side-by-side with the foreign nationals while training them on using the end product.

Currently, Daniele's team is working with countries such as Bahrain, Ukraine, Israel, Serbia, Oman, Lithuania and many more. The approval for assisting each country is determined, Daniele said, at a much higher level.

"This business is all U.S. Department of State business," he explained. "They determine what countries are eligible. If I get a request at this level, it's an eligible country. The authority and most funding for FMS comes out of the Foreign Affairs Appropriations Act, not the Department of Defense appropriations."

He said the FMS program is centered around Building Partner Capacity, which is a national security



Photo courtesy of the Warfighter Training Alliance

**Afghan National Army soldiers participate in Counter Improvised Explosive Device and Explosive Ordnance Disposal training.**



U.S. Army Photo/PEO STRI

**Members of the Colombian Air Force work with the Hypobaric Altitude Chamber delivered to them as part of the FMS program.**

strategy.

"We want to ensure that when we need countries as coalition partners they have the capabilities that we need them to bring to the fight," he said. "It also helps them increase their own security."

Business opportunities for FMS come to Daniele's team through three main streams: combatant commands and service component commands, other PEOs and through industry.

"We work with the combatant commands and service components commands, such as United States Army Europe, to figure out how we can help them get a capability in a country they would like to see it in," he explained. "Also, if another PEO is selling a weapons platform that we have a training device for, we become part of their FMS by virtue of our training device being part of the total package sale."

Using PEO Ground Combat Systems as an example, he said when they sell the M1 tanks to Morocco, PEO STRI's Advanced Gunnery Training System will be part of the sale.

Industry plays a big role in FMS, he said, because they are actively marketing the products they produce for PEO STRI. "When they convince countries that they should have their

specific training devices, they direct them to come through PEO STRI in the FMS process." He added that the FMS program is very popular with industry because it adds hundreds of millions of dollars in business that they wouldn't have without FMS.

Daniele is quick to point out that FMS process doesn't end in his International Programs Office once the sale is complete. He gives high credit to the Program Management teams for delivery of the product and service after the sale.

"All of the funding, documents and the authority for the sale come through my office," he explained. "I then conduct a very structured handoff with the applicable PM. I tell them, 'Here is the amount of money to do this, here is our commitment date for delivery and here is the cost schedule performance aspect.' They then do the acquisition and the fielding. I also hand off FMS cases that are for training support and training support services to [PM] Field OPS."

Over the last five years, Daniele's team has handled \$2.3 billion in FMS activity. During that period, one year broke the highest sales in Daniele's 20-year tenure at PEO STRI when they had \$735 million in FMS business. That money, he said, goes in many different directions.

"After the Department of Defense takes a percentage to basically fund the overall FMS program, PEO STRI gets the remainder to put toward the contract," he said. "That money then goes toward paying for all of the costs, including travel and labor, associated with us delivering that capability to the country purchasing it."

Daniele said while the FMS program is the "big sexy one with all of the dollars," and constitutes about 75 percent of his team's work, two other very significant programs keep his team actively engaged and he is just as proud of the great work they accomplish in those areas.

Working with other countries through International Armaments Cooperation efforts in research and development takes a smaller portion of his team's time, but is also an effective means of maintaining close relations with other countries.

Pointing out that they are not cash transactions like FMS, he said they are basically international agreements, data exchange agreements and project arrangements where other countries work cooperatively with the U.S.

"The success story we have now is the United Kingdom working with us as the codeveloper of One Semi-

*continued on next page*



## E-MAIL ETIQUETTE TIPS

*Article reposted from Ragan's PR Daily courtesy of Tom Smith, CT SmithIII's Blog*

In the spirit of using e-mail better, and helping others use e-mail better, below are tips anyone can implement.

1. Keep your message simple and clear. Edit unnecessary words to focus your recipient on what's most important. Short sentences and bullet points make your message easier to read on a computer screen and smartphone. It's estimated that people read more than 40 percent of e-mail on a smartphone.
2. Answer all questions and be proactive. Avoid wasting time with back-and-forth e-mails. Answer all the questions someone poses to you, and proactively answer the questions your recipient will likely ask next.
3. Respond quickly. E-mail is built for speed. Respond within 24 hours. If it will take longer to respond, let the sender know you received his or her e-mail and are working on a response. You will build trust among your friends and business associates, and amaze your clients and prospects.
4. Use polite greetings and closings. "Please" and "thank you" go a long way to convey a positive tone.
5. Use proper spelling, grammar and punctuation. Be professional and show you care. Always use spell check and proofread your e-mails.
6. Do not use all caps. Did you mistake the meaning of that statement because "not" wasn't in caps? No? Neither will your recipient.
7. Don't use special formatting, backgrounds, colored text or emoticons. Many feel they're unprofessional.
8. Double check for correct e-mail addresses and attachments. Avoid being embarrassed or disseminating proprietary information.
9. Be clear in the subject line. Briefly explain the content of your message to prevent people from ignoring your e-mails.
10. Never send an e-mail when you're upset. Step away from your computer and consider how to best resolve the issue.
11. Don't hide behind e-mail. It feels so easy to avoid difficult conversations by sending an e-mail, but research shows conflicts escalate more quickly and last longer over e-mail.
12. Don't be afraid to pick up the phone. E-mail is not always the right vehicle. You should never give bad news over e-mail. It's best to address complex information in a face-to-face conversation; nuance is often missed over e-mail.
13. Use the Cc field as an FYI. The Cc field means "this is for your information," and you are not expected to take action. Cc your manager when you want him or her to know you took action.
14. Use the Bcc field for large groups of recipients. Don't advertise people's e-mail addresses.
15. Only use "reply all" when appropriate. If everyone on the chain doesn't need to see your response, why fill up their inboxes?
16. Take care when you send large files. Check with your recipient in advance to see how she would like to receive the file.
17. Avoid sarcasm or tongue-in-cheek humor. E-mail doesn't convey the meaning behind these types of statements.

INTERNATIONAL PROGRAMS OFFICE SUPPORTS U.S. INTERESTS ABROAD *continued from page 8*

Automated Forces, or OneSAF," Daniele said. "Our arrangement is that they will work on specific parts of the project, we would work on others and then share the results of our international cooperation."

The other area of responsibility for Daniele's team is processing requests for export licenses from companies who want to complete a commercial sales transaction of a modeling or simulation capability

directly with a country.

"Any company that wants to sell a modeling or simulation capability that is on the U.S. munitions list as requiring an export license has to submit the request to the State Department and it then makes its way to my office," he explained. "We then work with the applicable PM to ascertain any objections to the company trying to sell that product internationally."

Like any job, the International Programs Office has its set of challenges, but Daniele said their biggest challenge centers around the appreciation for the heavy workload of the rest of PEO STRI.

"I have concerns because I don't want the volume of work we are bringing in to overwhelm the rest of the organization. We are all stretched for resources and we're not getting additional people. My team is here

to support PEO STRI, not drive it into the ground," he said.

"The overall Army programs have to go on," he added. "I would never want an Army program to suffer because we took the resources and put them to an FMS program. Our biggest challenge is finding a way to continue this business and get it into the workflow of the organization so that everyone is successful at the end."

# CITIZEN STRI

"What's your top travel destination and why?"



"Bruges, Belgium is by far one of my favorite travel destinations. The medieval city is graced with romantic canals, Gothic architecture, museums and cobblestone streets that you can explore by foot, boat or in a horse-drawn carriage. There was no shortage of Belgian beer, waffle and chocolate shops, and unique cafés that definitely appealed to our appetites!"

- **Kimberly Baker**, Graphics Department



"Hawaii all the way! I was privileged to spend a 10 week TDY a few years ago at Fort Shafter on Oahu. Before my TDY, I joined a bike club on Oahu and brought my road bike with me. On Saturdays, we, the "Heavybreathers," set out for a 79 to 100 mile trek. Some of the best days of my life were spent riding in and out of traffic in Waikiki, snorkeling at Sharks Cove on the Northshore and the many friends I was blessed to meet that summer. Aloha in a heartbeat!"

- **Mary Abbott**, PM Field OPS



"Prague, Czech Republic is my top travel destination. I was privileged to travel to Prague on business with PEO STRI. Prague is a cultural center - art, music, architecture and wonderful culinary delights all come together in Prague. The people are friendly and speak excellent English."

- **Mike Baraniak**, PM CATT

Want your opinion heard? Answer September's Question! The question is open to the entire workforce. *Autumn is almost here! What's your favorite fall activity?* Send your response to [Kristen.McCullough@us.army.mil](mailto:Kristen.McCullough@us.army.mil) and put Citizen STRI in the subject line.

## HOLIDAYS & Events

**SEPTEMBER 3**

Labor Day

**SEPTEMBER 7**

PM CATT Assumption of Charter

**SEPTEMBER 27**

Acquisition Academy Graduation

**SEPTEMBER 27**

Town Hall Meeting

## INSIDE PEO STRI

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to bring America closer to its Army.

Facebook, one of the most prominent social media sites, represents a shift in the way people communicate.

"As one of the Army's high-tech organizations and a business-like component of the force, I'm excited that PEO STRI's become an active participant in the social media community," Dr. Jim Blake, the program executive officer for PEO STRI, said. "Not only does it provide us with an express connection to our employees, vendors and customers, it's a mechanism for us to help the Army share its story directly and honestly with the American people."

While social media gives people the ability to communicate with larger audiences faster and in new ways, the Army understands the risks associated with it. PEO STRI, in accordance with the Army's Social Media Handbook, acknowledges that operations security, known as OPSEC, and personal privacy concerns will be of paramount importance when posting information to Facebook.

"Our Security and Intelligence Office works closely with the Public Affairs Office to ensure we have the right balance between transparency and privacy in all of our communication outreach, to include our most recent venture in entering the Facebook world," Matt Palco, PEO STRI's senior intelligence officer, said.

PEO STRI employees who use Facebook and other social media tools are expected to be familiar with the Department of Defense's social media policy at <http://www.defense.gov/news/dtm%2009-026.pdf>. Questions on PEO STRI's social media efforts should be directed to the Public Affairs Office at [Public\\_Affairs@peostri.army.mil](mailto:Public_Affairs@peostri.army.mil).

## ATTENTION ALL FACEBOOK USERS: Security Tips to Consider

- **Look closely at all privacy settings. Set security options to allow visibility to "friends only."**
- **Do not reveal sensitive information about yourself such as schedules and event locations.**
- **Ask, "What could the wrong person do with this information? Could it compromise my safety or that of my family or my unit?"**
- **Geotagging is a feature that reveals your location to other people within your network. Consider turning off the GPS function of your smartphone and digital camera.**
- **Photos and videos can go viral quickly. Closely review them before posting to ensure they don't give away sensitive information that could be dangerous if released.**
- **Talk to your family about operations security. Be sure they know what can and cannot be posted.**

Adam dubbed it.

"Kids don't have our same fears," Ken said.

The two parents would take turns at the hospital, or they would go together when they could.

"You have to do it," Sue said. "It's your child, so you do whatever you have to."

Ken said one of the things that kept the family going was the optimism from their doctors.

"They always said the cure rate is 100%," he said. "That's what kept us going."

### KEEPING THE FAMILY STRONG

While the Criders had to keep going and supporting Adam to the fullest extent, they also had the challenge of balancing their attention with their oldest son, Kody. Now 13, Kody is entering 8th grade at Station Camp Middle School.

"It was important that we keep that open communication with him," Sue said. "We always made sure we did things with him too."

Of course, Adam's compassionate nature made it a little easier.

"Even before he got sick, he was always thinking of other people," Sue said. "If we

went to the store, he'd say 'We've got to get something for Bubby' – that's his nickname for Kody."

It was only natural that Kody would join Adam in the flight simulator, an adventure he exited with an ear-to-ear grin.

### WHEELS UP

After Gerblick read Adam's first letter, he wrote back with a deal.

"If you keep fighting your cancer, then I'll keep fighting the bad guys here," Gerblick wrote.

"When I come home, I'll take you flying in a helicopter flight simulator."

Ken said Adam received the offer with a grin that extended perhaps a half-inch wider than normal.

"I figured most kids liked video games, and the flight simulator really does replicate what we do as pilots," Gerblick said.

While it seemed like a pretty straightforward, simple offer to Gerblick, it helped motivate Adam.

"It helped him put all the stuff he's been through behind him and gave him something to look forward to," Ken said.

The Criders didn't know how much it was doing the same for Gerblick, who was supporting a war on the other side of the world.

"I made a promise," Gerblick said, "and I was going to keep that promise."

With his cancer in remission for nearly a year, and just over six months left of treatment, Adam entered the flight simulator with an enthusiasm and energy that can only be found in a child. He was about to fly over Colorado, home of his favorite football team.

"It was fun!" Adam exclaimed as he posed for a picture in front of the simulator. He said he's not sure what he wants to do with his life when he grows up, but becoming a pilot may be an option after this experience.

While Adam looks fearlessly to the future, his family continues to embrace the little things, heeding Gerblick's words "Life's too short." They tuck their fears to the back of their mind.

"There's always that little bit of worry," Sue said as she choked back tears. "You always hope it doesn't come back."

In the meantime, they continue to appreciate the little things. As she left the simulator with Adam, Sue said, "Just to see his face, his smile – that was great."

# TEAM ORLANDO



*U.S. Army Photo/Doug Schaub*

Dr. Jim Blake presides over an award ceremony for Col. Francisco Espailat June 29 marking Espailat's departure from PM CATT and promotion to brigadier general.



*Photo Courtesy of Just Twistin' Hay*

PM ITTS employee Linda Clipp (pictured front right) plays the fiddle in a local Irish folk band called Just Twistin' Hay. The band performs the first and third Fridays of every month at McK's Tavern in Daytona Beach, Fla., and at other venues around the Central Florida area.



*U.S. Army Photo*

Actor Gary Sinise visits Warrior Hall at Fort Rucker, Ala., and gets an overview of PEO STRI's Flight School XXI program. Pictured left to right: Lt. Col. Bob Rugg, assistant program manager for FSXXI, Col. Stephen Seitz, Fort Rucker director of simulations, and Maj. Gen. Anthony G. Crutchfield, commanding general of Fort Rucker.



*U.S. Army Photo/Doug Schaub*

The Acquisition Center-established committee called Caring Hands Aiding Many Public Services, or CHAMPS for short, gives back to the local community. The volunteer group facilitated a school supply drive in July to benefit the Children's Home Society of Florida, a foundation endorsed by the Combined Federal Campaign. Pictured left to right: Marnita Harris, Molly Stoute, Louise Williams, Jill Edwards, Lisa Parker, KeYanna Boone and Ann Pham.

# IN PHOTOS