

INSIDE ^{PEO} STRI

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WORTH REPEATING

“ I was going to complain about how hot it is, then I realized that it isn't 140 degrees; I'm not 5,700 miles from home; I'm not dressed in a full ACU uniform, vest and helmet and carrying 70-plus pounds; and there is very little chance that anyone will shoot at me or that I might drive over a bomb in the road today. Thanks to all who serve. God bless our military!”

— **Kate Kathy Galamba Hamaker**, a grateful American who's comment originally appeared in "The Mercury," a newspaper serving the Pottstown, Pa., area.



Courtesy Photo

PEO STRI employee Lou Hamilton had the opportunity to fly in a Blackhawk helicopter in preparation for his assignment in Afghanistan with the Ministry of Defense Advisor program.

STRI Civilian Departs Desk Job for Harsh Deployment All in the Name of Soldiers

By Kristen A. McCullough, PEO STRI Public Affairs Officer

Transition, flux and instability undeniably characterize the current state of affairs in Afghanistan. As U.S. forces decrease their presence, the Afghan nation has no other choice but to become more self-sufficient. In an effort to ease the shift to self-governance, the U.S. government developed a program to draw on U.S. civilian personnel to guide and advise the Afghan government.

One of the few civilians selected to participate in the initiative, called the Ministry of Defense Advisor (MoDA) pro-

gram, comes right here from PEO STRI.

Lou Hamilton, who formerly worked in PM FFS, reported to his one-year long assignment in Afghanistan last month as the senior civilian advisor to Lt. Gen. Mohammed Atmar, the chief of the Afghan Uniform Police in the Afghanistan Ministry of Interior.

"I was tired of supporting the Warfighter from my desk," Hamilton insisted. "I wanted to practice what I preached and get my boots on the ground. The more civilians that answer the

call, the quicker the military can get home to their families."

As a former Marine, Hamilton had a good idea what life would be like once he deployed. Despite Afghanistan's harsh living and working conditions, Hamilton acknowledged, "I've been in some terrible places throughout the years so this will be a piece of cake."

Piece of cake? Perhaps to a man who spent much of his life building the reputation of a combat-hardened Marine.

Although Hamilton already

Continued on page 9

ARMY BALL AWARDS RECOGNIZE PEO STRI'S TOP ACHIEVERS



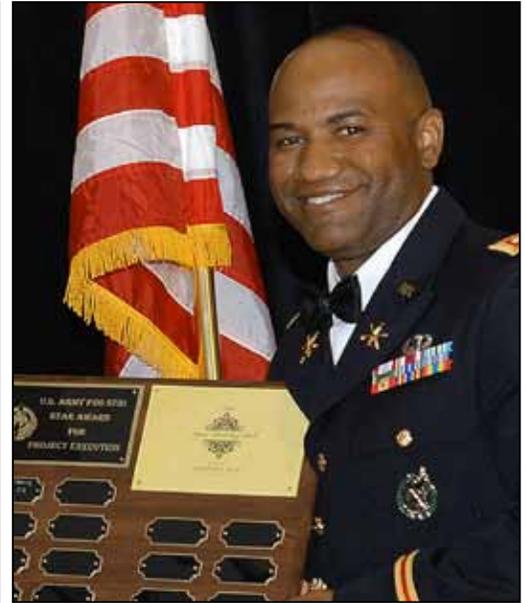
U.S. Army Photo/Doug Schaub

The Acquisition Person of the Year award was presented to Joe Cabret by Dr. Jim Blake at the 236th Army Birthday Ball June 18.



U.S. Army Photo/Doug Schaub

On behalf of PM Field OPS, the program manager Russ McBride accepts the STAR award for contract execution at the June 18 Army Ball.



U.S. Army Photo/Doug Schaub

Lt. Col. Charles Worshim of PM TRADE's Combat Training Instrumentation Systems accepts the STAR award for project execution during the annual Army Birthday Ball June 18.

By Megan Jeffers, PEO STRI External Affairs Specialist

The annual announcement of PEO STRI's Acquisition Person of the Year and STAR award recipients routinely draws keen interest from the local Army Birthday Ball attendees. This year's awards were presented in front of a 1,100-plus crowd by Dr. Jim Blake, PEO STRI's program executive officer, at the June 18 gala.

The event's co-host, the Association of the United States Army (AUSA) Sunshine Chapter, recognized Joe Cabret as PEO STRI's acquisition person of the year.

The award represents individuals who have made significant contributions to the U.S. Army through their acquisition responsibilities and duties. This year, it was presented to Cabret who is the lead project director for PM Field OPS' Soldier Systems Gunnery, Maintenance and Driver TADSS for successfully relocating more

than 150 training devices in support of the Defense Base Closure and Realignment Act.

The project required the development of an operational plan that provided detailed instructions to assist the Warfighter FOCUS contractor in understanding movement procedures of training devices at several Army installations, site walk-throughs, 100 percent government-furnished property inventories, and identification and segregation of key equipment to include disposal, equipment preparation, movement coordination and loading, Cabret said.

"I'm honored to be recognized by the PEO STRI leadership," he continued. "I appreciate the recognition and will continue to do the best I can in support of the PEO STRI mission and the Warfighter."

In addition to the Acquisition Person of the Year award, rec-

ognition was given to two PEO STRI STAR teams—one for contract execution and another for project execution.

Russ McBride, project manager for PM Field OPS, accepted the award for contract execution on behalf of his team for PM Field OPS' work on the Afghan National Air Force Pilot Training Source Selection Team. The team was comprised of Elizabeth Owen, Tony Pham, Gloria Bailey and Linda Comfort.

As described in the team's award nomination written by teammate Linda Comfort, the team's acquisition strategy and source selection approach sought to achieve a comprehensive, best-value training package focused on student success of the Afghan military pilots, cost reduction and reduced delivery time. The approach incorporated innovative solutions and delivered a competitive training solution that em-

braced the tenets of better buying power and will provide the optimal environment for Afghan student pilot performance.

The contract award was made for a period of three years with flexibility to train 80 pilots on a compressed, staggered schedule. The unique tailoring of a commercial item to fit the complex requirements and constraints of training Afghan military pilots outside of their native land is noteworthy, the nomination stated.

"It's always nice to have good teamwork recognized," teammate Elizabeth Owen said. "[This project] demonstrates STRI's ability to be both creative and proactive when contracting resources are in demand."

The second STAR award for project execution was presented to PM TRADE's Interim Soldier Tracking System team and accepted by Lt. Col. Charles Worshim.

New Training Device Can Counter Taliban Threat to Army Aviators in Afghanistan

By Rick Gregory, APEO Business Operations Support Staff

Surface-to-air missiles (SAMs) used by mujahedeen fighters in Afghanistan in the 1980s played a crucial role in the defeat of the Soviet forces, according to an article published in the Washington Examiner last October. It is estimated the mujahedeen took down 269 Soviet aircraft during the war. That threat has been renewed, but this time against U.S. aviators, the newspaper reported.

“Iranian military advisors have been training Taliban fighters in Afghanistan on the use of surface-to-air missiles, a potential game changer in the current conflict if insurgents can use such weapons effectively, several current and retired military officials said,” the article stated. Coalition forces are even more dependent on moving troops and supplies through the air than the Red Army was due to the threat posed on the ground by IEDs, experts added.

If the old standard that “timing is everything” is true, it certainly applies here.

In April, PEO STRI’s PM TRADE awarded a contract for a Man-Portable Aircraft Survivability Trainer (MAST) that will train rotary wing helicopter pilots on evading surface-to-air missile threats. The MAST system will accurately represent a SAM being fired to include the visual smoke plume it emits.

“I am really excited that PEO STRI is procuring this potentially life-saving training device for our Army aviators,” said Dr. Jim Blake, the program executive officer for PEO STRI and a former Army aviator. “It provides aviators the most realistic training they can undergo to help them survive a lethal surface-to-air missile attack.”

Weighing less than 35 pounds,

the shoulder-fired MAST incorporates a light-emitting diode ultraviolet emitter that replicates the effects of an actual threat. The system will stimulate the aircraft’s common missile warning system and give the aircrew all the indications of a real world surface-to-air missile attack. The MAST can activate the indicators from distances up to more than three miles.

When used during live training exercises, the MAST can simulate a SAM engagement sequence including seeker lock (the missile locking onto the target) and break lock (causing the missile to move sharply away from the target aircraft). Additionally, the MAST provides comprehensive after-action video for debriefing crews and providing continuing pilot skills training.

After extensive research and evaluation by the Joint Forces Command and PEO Intelligence, Electronic Warfare and Sensors, in 2009 PEO STRI’s PM TRADE became responsible for the procurement of the MAST system.

“We are very pleased to be just months away from getting the MAST to the field to enhance the training of our aviators to increase their survivability during overseas contingency operations,” said Col. Mike Flanagan, project manager for PM TRADE. “From the simulated missile locking onto the aircraft and activating the warning system

to the visual effect of the smoke plume, the pilots will feel the same adrenaline rush in training that they will feel during an actual SAM attack. Now that’s a great live training solution to fulfill a critical need for our aviators!”

The current MAST fielding plan calls for 100 systems by 2016, with an initial delivery of 32 MASTs in 2012 to Forts Irwin, Hood, Campbell, Polk and Rucker and units in Germany and South Korea.



Photo courtesy of AAI Corporation

The Man-Portable Aircraft Survivability Trainer (MAST), which weighs less than 35 pounds, can stimulate an aircraft’s common missile warning system from more than three miles away.



U.S. Army Photo

Helicopter pilots will learn how to react to surface-to-air missile threats during live training exercises when the Man-Portable Aircraft Survivability Trainer (MAST) is deployed to the field.

PEO STRI INTRODUCES ARMOR, INFANTRY UNITS IN KOREA TO DIGITAL RANGES

By Rick Gregory, APEO Business Operations Support Staff

The 2nd Infantry Division's (2ID) motto is "Second to None," and thanks to collaboration with PEO STRI, the division's commanding general said he feels that motto now also applies to the live fire complex his Soldiers train on.

For many years, Soldiers assigned to 2ID in Korea have become intimately familiar with the Rodriguez Live Fire Complex (RLFC) as they went through their qualifications during live-fire training.

While the RLFC's non-digital Multi-Purpose Training Range provided valuable live-fire exercises for 2ID Soldiers over the years, the division's leader, Maj. Gen. Michael Tucker, knew the digital applications available for the RLFC would provide his Soldiers with a better live-fire training environment.

Acting on his request, PEO STRI updated the existing range with digital capabilities and fielded a Digital Multi-Purpose Range Complex (DMPRC) within eight months after the contract was awarded. Following the Acceptance Testing and achieving Initial Operating Capability, units of the division were conducting live-fire tank gunnery training the next day. A combined arms live-fire exercise with infantry and armor units was successfully completed just weeks later.

Tucker said he was so pleased with the transition to the modernized live-fire range that he intends to showcase the cutting-edge digital capabilities to the Republic of Korea senior military leadership later this year.

"This is the most modern mission-focused precision gunnery complex in the world," Tucker said. "The unique combination of range technology and terrain

allows units to train as they will fight and where they will fight if called on to defend the Republic of Korea from aggression," Tucker said.

The Digital Range Training System (DRTS), which is at the heart of the new training capabilities, provides ranges that are capable of training, evaluating and stressing today's Soldiers and their modern equipment with a realistic train-as-you-fight environment. The computer controlled video- and sensor-based range instrumentation system allows units to plan, coordinate, execute and control their training setting. The ranges include stationary and moving armored and infantry silhouette targets.

The digital range complex supports all gunnery qualification tables and combined arms live-fire exercises for Abrams, Bradley and limited aviation assets, while the digitized training range supports crew and section qualifications for armor and infantry units.

"This technology allows us to achieve high-performing killer crews in half the time required when using non-digital ranges," Tucker said. "Based on the unique design of the control tower, we have fully integrated the mission command capabilities

of the Army Battle Command System, provided high-fidelity tools for unparalleled training and evaluation, and provided units direct interface with the support contractors for scenario development, input, execution and after-action review support."

Range control operators now also have complete 360-degree video global position and weapon orientation coverage for day and night range surveillance through the permanently positioned outside cameras. It also provides for a safer range environment with controllers having the capability to monitor what the tank is looking at and the ability to instantly call for a cease fire. As well, crew compartment cameras and through-sight gunner and commander's view cameras provide evaluators unprecedented visual access

to the action taking place on the range.

The new after-action review process has been significantly enhanced and provides Soldiers and commanders immediate and valuable feedback. Immediately after exiting the range, Soldiers can enter the after-action theater to review their successes and discuss their weaknesses.

As the Army's strategic plan to incorporate Live, Virtual and Constructive (LVC) capabilities in acquisition products and supporting infrastructure matures, one goal for the digital ranges is to support this integration. Given its inherent digital and Common Instrumentation Architecture-based design, future DMPRC improvements are feasible allowing integration into a blended environment.



U.S. Army Photo

An M1A2 Abrams crew participates in live fire gunnery qualifications on the Digital Multi-Purpose Range Complex at the Rodriguez Live Fire Range in South Korea.



Former Senior Enlisted Advisor Welcomed Back to PEO STRI After Serving in Afghanistan

By Rick Gregory, APEO Business Operations Support Staff

English poet John Keats once said, “Nothing ever becomes real until it is experienced.”

While Dave Lanham would agree with the basic premise of that statement, he said he firmly believes the training devices made available by PEO STRI provide the most realistic experience our Soldiers can get prior to putting their boots on the ground in a combat environment.

He should know. Besides being part of PEO STRI teams that oversee getting the training devices developed and to the Soldiers in the field, he has also donned his Army uniform and witnessed firsthand how that training has been put to action in overseas contingency operations in Afghanistan and Iraq.

Lanham, a sergeant major in the Florida National Guard, has been with PEO STRI since 2004, having served first as the senior enlisted leader for PM CATT and then as PEO STRI’s senior enlisted advisor. He recently returned from a nine-month deployment in eastern Afghanistan at the Special Forces Advanced Operating Base where he assisted in managing the efforts to successfully perform operations in conjunction with the host nation and NATO forces.

During his deployment, he and his team took the Village Stability Operations and Afghan Local Police programs from concept to reality while continuing to increase the Afghan National Security Force capability.

With nearly 25 years of combined active Army and Army National Guard service, including three tours with Operation Enduring Freedom in Afghanistan, one tour with Operation Iraqi Freedom and operations in several other regions, he speaks with authority when he says that the training Soldiers receive on simulated training devices is saving lives.

“I believe the Training Aids, Devices, Simulators and Simulations (TADSS) have a significant impact on enhancing live training or replicating critical skills that you cannot duplicate in a live training environment without serious consideration to safety and resource management issues,” he said.

Training Soldiers in critical medical care is one area Lanham speaks passionately about.

“The ability to complete a needle decompression on a wounded Soldier is a proven lifesaving task,” he explained. “You can’t safely stick a needle in a Soldier’s chest cavity during a live training exercise, yet, thanks to the capabilities found in our Medical Simulation Training Centers, you can perform this task under re-

alistic conditions until you have perfected the technique.”

He also rhetorically asked how leaders can safely simulate a vehicle rollover without the use of a training device designed to do just that. “You can’t,” was his short answer. Training devices, he said, are an integral part of the Army’s training strategy and have been used since the days of the Roman Soldiers.

“The Romans used a wooden training sword they called a rudis, which was designed to accurately replicate the weight and feel of a real sword to strike a man-sized wooden dummy known as a palus. TADSS will continue to have a positive impact on Soldiers for years to come.”

Lanham, who rejoins PEO STRI in August as a strategic program integrator in the Business Operations Office, is quick to point out that it is the collaboration of a lot of people that gets the training devices into the hands of the Soldiers.

“At PEO STRI, we execute cradle-to-grave life-cycle management,” he said. “But, we could not do what we do without the folks who generate the need (the operational force), manage the requirement (Training and Doctrine Command), fight for the fiscal resources (Department of the Army Management Office - Training Simulations) and build the devices (industry). It’s truly a team effort.”

PEO STRI also welcomes back Shannon Swain of PM CATT, who also recently returned from a deployment in Afghanistan.



Courtesy Photo

Sgt. Maj. Dave Lanham, a strategic integrator with PEO STRI’s Business Operations Office, patrols the mountainside of eastern Afghanistan.





Tim Gifford of PM ITTS marched in the 4th of July Parade in Geneva, Fla.



Lisa Smith, a PEO STRI in-house support contractor, and her two daughters, Destiny and Gracie, show their U.S.A. and Army spirit at the Avalon Park firework display.



Skye Griffin, son of PEO STRI engineer Kyle Griffin, holds his American flag high while waiting on the fireworks to start in Winter Springs, Fla.



Linda Comfort, a PEO STRI employee currently based in Afghanistan, attended a combat patch ceremony presided over by Gen. David H. Petraeus, commander of both the International Security Assistance Force and the U.S. forces in Afghanistan.



Lou Hamilton, a STRI Afghanistan, made it mission to his base in time for the 4th of July.



PEO STRI employee Jacquie Hauck and her family celebrated July 4th at the Daytona International Speedway.



PEO STRI engineer Hugo Carneiro and his girlfriend brave the crowds to watch the fireworks over Lake Eola.

STRI Employees CELEBRATE July 4th



PEO STRI employee Chris Dunlap raced his Lola T644 Formula Ford at Roebing Road in Savannah, Ga.



Col. Mike Flanagan kicked off his 4th of July weekend running the Watermelon 5k in Winter Park, Fla., with his daughter.



Mike Garretson of PM Field OPS barbecues 60 lbs. of meat for the 4th of July celebration at Camp Buehring, Kuwait.



Brad Harris of PM ITTS and his son, Brennan, show their American pride en route to a local firework display.



Colleen Silvey of PM ConSim spends the weekend with her daughters, Charlotte and Rosemary, in the Florida Keys.



employee in back from a Kabul just in barbecue.



Objective Helicopter Icing Spray System Project Awards Prime Contract

By Darrell Wright, PM ITTS Project Director

The Aviation Test Team under the Instrumentation Management Office in PM ITTS awarded a contract June 9 to provide an improved helicopter icing spray system that will be used to test military and commercial aviation de-icing systems.

The Objective Helicopter Icing Spray System (OHISS), although not a typical project for PEO STRI, is sponsored by the Office of the Secretary of Defense Central Test and Evaluation Investment Program and worth \$35 million. The current helicopter icing spray system for the CH-47D is near the end of its service life and this program

will replace the existing system.

Currently, prior to the OHISS fielding, the helicopter icing spray system is tested by placing the modified CH-47D in a northern location during the winter. Missions are flown with a modified C-12 that finds favorable meteorological conditions by using specialized instrumentation. The CH-47D and the system under test are then directed to the test area. The CH-47D begins spraying water and air through the spray bar to produce an artificial cloud. The C-12 flies in formation with the CH-47D, placing the specialized instrumentation in the cloud to

measure the cloud's water content and droplet size, which are critical to the ice formation. The spray is adjusted until the desired test conditions are met. The C-12 breaks formation and is replaced by the system under test. Testing is performed at speeds greater than 100 knots and at altitudes below 10,000 feet.

The new OHISS will be much less resource intensive. It will be designed and fielded as a kit that can be installed on any CH-47F aircraft. The kit will be capable of producing two icing cloud configurations. One cloud will be designed to test wing and ro-

tor performance and the other will be designed to test fuselage and engine inlet performance.

The OHISS kit will be transportable, allowing it to be installed at the test location on any available CH-47F. The design proposed by the contractor places the cloud further away from the CH-47F fuselage, which is expected to further improve the cloud characteristics. The system is projected to be operational in fiscal year 2016 after it completes more than 125 hours of flight testing.

The OHISS project is also fielding an improved cloud measuring system to supplement the C-12 and allow testing at slower speeds. The OHISS team is working with the Redstone Test Center Aviation Flight Test Directorate to complete the UH-60M cloud characterization kit. This kit uses an external stores support system and a modified Hellfire missile launch rack as a mounting platform for the specialized instrumentation flown on the UH-60M. The kit also contains an air data boom and additional instrumentation to ensure rotor downwash does not affect the measurements.

The cloud measuring system for the C-12 has completed airworthiness certification and will complete qualification testing this fall. The kit was recently displayed at the International Test and Evaluation Association's Test Week event held in Huntsville, Ala., June 13-16, 2011.

Throughout the OHISS development, PEO STRI's Aviation Test Team will be supported by icing and aviation experts from the Army, Navy, Air Force, Federal Aviation Administration and NASA.



Courtesy Photo

The Objective Helicopter Icing Spray System (OHISS) is set to replace the CH-47D's current helicopter icing spray system, which has been used to test military and commercial aviation de-icing systems since the late 70s.



understands Afghan tactics and can speak their language, he, and the rest of the MoDA program's civilians, underwent extensive training to prepare them for this mission.

The seven-week course started in Washington, D.C., with classroom briefings from some of the industry's top experts, to include a presentation on insurgency and counterinsurgency from David Kilcullen, former senior advisor to both Gen. David Petraeus and Condoleezza Rice.

The course also offered talks from a former Iranian hostage, ambassadors, politicians and Army experts. "We had a lieutenant colonel brief us on Village Stability Operations with, literally, Afghanistan sand in his boots; he had just got off the plane," Hamilton said.

Of course, hands-on instruction proved to be crucial in preparing for a mission of this magnitude. As a result, the MoDA participants underwent role-playing experiences where they had to negotiate, advise and mentor. Combat conditions were also thrown into the training whereby participants needed to use their weapon and respond to roadside bombs.

It was not all hard work and no play, however. "We did one trip in a Blackhawk," Hamilton explained. In addition, "They intermixed traditional Afghan dinners for us. Much of what we do [in country] will include socializing with the Afghans so they wanted us to experience Afghan food and eating with our hands."

The excitement, challenge and significance of the MoDA program, while a perfect fit for Hamilton, is not for everyone. Of the 114 resumes submitted for the third class of the MoDA program, only 40 individuals were selected to participate in the preparation activities and a mere 25 were selected for deployment.

When the first class of participants arrived in Afghanistan in the summer of 2010, Petraeus quickly acknowledged the program's worthiness and called for an expansion by this summer. More recently, Hamilton explained, "MoDA just picked up some supplemental funding and the intent is to go worldwide with the program to any hotspot that needs civilian advisors on the ground. In an era of downsizing and budget cuts, that says a lot."



Courtesy Photo

Lou Hamilton (right) partakes in a traditional Afghan meal prior to his deployment to Afghanistan as part of the Ministry of Defense Advisor program.

MoDA 101

The Ministry of Defense Advisor's (MoDA) pilot program is comprised of 34 civilians deployed to advise officials with both the Afghan Ministry of Defense and Interior under the direction of Lt. Gen. William Caldwell, commander of the NATO Training Mission-Afghanistan and Combined Security Training Command-Afghanistan (NTM-A/CSTC-A).

The group includes individuals of GS-13 rank or higher and who, on average, bring with them 20 years of experience. The team's pre-deployment training includes courses on advising approaches and tools, Af-

ghan familiarization, and protection and survival. The course culminates with a capstone exercise where the advisors apply the skills and knowledge they acquired throughout the seven-week course.

Since the first group of advisors arrived in Afghanistan July 2010, the MoDA program advisors have had an immediate and far reaching impact.

Because of the great success of the initial program and with the support of Caldwell, the MoDA Program deployed an additional 49 advisors to fill the current NTM-A/CSTC-A requirement.

More information can be found at http://www.defense.gov/home/features/2011/0211_moda/.



CITIZEN STRI

“What did you do to celebrate July 4th?”



“I grilled out, read the Declaration of Independence with the family and gave thanks for what we have (we do it every year), and watched the fireworks on Lake Howell.”

- Ron Swanson, PM CATT



“I did what most Americans I know do--ate barbecue and watched fireworks. I also worked in my garden.”

- Valerie Deenen, PM TRADE



“My wife, two boys and I went to see fireworks. We also went to my father’s house to barbecue, swim and spend time with family.”

- Dennis Godfrey, PM TRADE



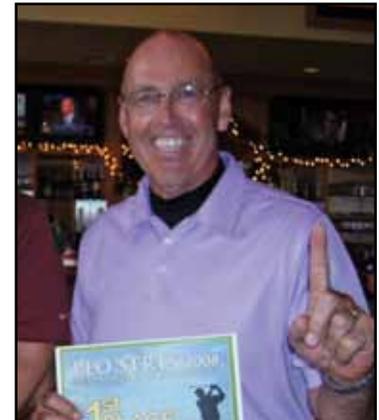
“Being a girl from the D.C. area, I quickly discovered that there is nothing better than summer parties in Florida. We kept the grill going all day and invited friends to come over and join in on the festivities. With good food, good company and beautiful weather, who could ask for anything else? We were still having fun long after the fireworks stopped.”

- Lina Garziona, PM ITTS

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

“What’s the best thing you’ve done this summer?” Send your response to Kristen.McCullough@us.army.mil and put Citizen STRI in the subject line.

Walt’s Golf COLUMN



Hitting the links is a favorite pastime for many PEO STRI employees. Even the most avid golfers might not know, however, that August is National Golf Month. In recognition of the “national holiday,” PEO STRI’s very own golf “pro,” Walt Pezzolo, ranks the organization’s top civilian golfers.



1. Dr. Jim Blake, PEO
2. Mr. Rob Reyenga, DPEO
3. Bill Leeman, PM Field OPS
4. Don Stewart, PM ConSim
5. Arnie Berresford, PM TRADE
6. Ray Fegal, PM TRADE
7. Doug Greenwood, Acq. Center
8. Pat Sincebaugh, APEO PS
9. Milt Cates, APEO PS
10. Jeff Simons, APEO

HOLIDAYS Events

Official Visit: Ms. Heidi Shyu..... Aug. 8

Town Hall Meeting Aug. 25



SOLDIER AWARDED MEDAL OF HONOR

By Megan Neunan, Army News

Sgt. 1st Class Leroy A. Petry received the Medal of Honor from President Barack Obama during a historic ceremony in the East Room of the White House July 12.

Petry is only the second active-duty servicemember since Vietnam to live to accept the nation's highest military honor. The first Soldier, Staff Sgt. Salvatore Giunta, was seated in the audience that included Vice President Joe Biden, Army senior leaders, several rows of decorated Army Rangers, and more than 100 of Petry's family and friends, including his wife, mother, father, grandparents, brothers and four children.

"This could not be happening to a nicer guy or a more inspiring family," the president said. "Leroy, the Medal of Honor reflects the deepest gratitude of our entire nation."

Obama took the audience back to May 26, 2008, to Pakyta, Afghanistan. It was the day Petry's act of conspicuous gallantry saved the lives of Sgt. Daniel Higgins and Pfc. Lucas Robinson.

The president explained how Petry and members of his Co. D, 2nd Bn., 75th Ranger Regiment, took on a rare daylight raid on an insurgent compound to pursue a

top al-Qaida commander sequestered inside, and how the mission left Petry and two of his comrades within feet of a live enemy grenade.

Petry was already shot through both legs, but with no regard for his life, still took action to save comrades Higgins and Robinson from certain death.

"Every human impulse would tell someone to turn away. Every Soldier is trained to seek cover. That's what Sergeant Leroy Petry could have done," Obama said. "Instead, this wounded Ranger, this 28-year-old man who had his whole life ahead of him, this husband and father of four did something extraordinary—he lunged forward toward the live grenade. He picked it up. He cocked his arm to throw it back. What compels such courage that leads a person to risk everything so that others might live?"

Petry shook hands with the president today using a robotic hand, which replaced the one he lost when the grenade detonated as Petry released it.

On the day of the incident, even the loss of his hand failed to fluster him, though. Obama marveled that the war hero applied a tourniquet

himself and then radioed for help.

"The service of Leroy Petry speaks to the very essence of America—that spirit that says, no matter how hard the journey, no matter how steep the climb, we don't quit," Obama said.

Petry's calm handling of a highly dangerous mission allowed other Rangers to kill enemy fighters. Spc. Christopher Gathercole gave his life in the battle. Gathercole's brother, sister and grandmother stood as the audience gave them a thunderous round of applause in his honor.

Obama shared that in an earlier meeting in the Oval Office, Petry displayed a plaque he has mounted on his mechanical hand that bears the names of Gathercole and other Soldiers the regiment has lost.

Higgins and Robinson were able to celebrate with Petry at the White House.

"This is the stuff of which heroes are made," Obama said. "This is the strength, the devotion that makes our troops the pride of every American. And this is the reason that—like a Soldier named Leroy



U.S. Army Photo/Spc. David M. Sharp

President Barack Obama awards the Medal of Honor to Sgt. 1st Class Leroy A. Petry at the White House in Washington, D.C., July 12, 2011.

Petry—America doesn't simply endure, we emerge from our trials stronger, more confident, with our eyes fixed on the future."

Petry continues his work to help wounded warriors. After re-enlisting, he even returned to Afghanistan for an eighth combat tour last year.

"Today we honor a singular act of gallantry," Obama said in closing, "yet as we near the tenth anniversary of the attacks that thrust our nation into war, this is also an occasion to pay tribute to a Soldier and a generation that has borne the burden of our security during a hard decade of sacrifice."



By Marge Hadbavny, Protocol Officer

VIDEO CONFERENCE ETIQUETTE

- Test equipment in advance.
- Let participants know ahead of time what to expect and who will be present.
- Set clear objectives regarding what will be accomplished in the session.
- Dress as you would for an in-person meeting.
- Begin and end on time.
- Introduce all participants.
- Speak clearly and loudly.
- Make eye contact with the camera and with other participants in your room.
- Use names to direct questions to specific people.
- Don't be too close to the camera.
- Avoid making excessive background noise, like rustling papers.
- Turn off watch alarms and cell phones.
- Don't leave the room unless absolutely necessary.

Protocol Tip courtesy of the Emily Post Institute.

INSIDE PEO STRI

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TEAM ORLANDO IN PHOTOS



U.S. Army Photo/Doug Schaub

Col. Francisco Espailat (right), project manager for PM CATT, congratulates Lt. Col. Mike Newell, former product manager for Air and Command Tactical Trainers, at Newell's retirement of charter ceremony July 1.



U.S. Army Photo/Doug Schaub

Col. Gordon Graham (left) hands over the Product Manager for Live Training Systems charter to Lt. Col. Scott Tufts (right) in a July 8 ceremony presided over by Col. Michael Flanagan, project manager for PM TRADE.



U.S. Army Photo/Doug Schaub

PEO STRI's fifth Acquisition Academy class, which commenced July 18, will provide 14 developmental employees a unique perspective in starting their career as a member of the government's civilian workforce.

