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WORTH REPEATING

“ At various stages the mission has required our Soldiers to be scholars, teachers, policemen, farmers, bankers, engineers, social workers, and of course, warriors—often all at the same time. And they have always risen to the challenge.”

— Robert M. Gates, secretary of defense, commenting on the Army's 236th Birthday in the Pentagon Courtyard



U.S. Army Photo/Doug Schaub

The Dismounted Soldier Training System is demonstrated for Maj. Gen. Robert B. Brown (third from left behind table), the commanding general of the U.S. Army Maneuver Center of Excellence, during the recent Training & Simulation Industry Symposium, held in Orlando, Fla., June 15-16.

STRI FIELDS FIRST-EVER VIRTUAL TRAINING FOR INFANTRYMEN

By Rick Gregory, APEO Business Operations Support Staff

Ever since Captain Kirk uttered the famous line, “Beam me up, Scotty,” on the popular Star Trek television series, people have been fascinated with the idea of being instantaneously transported to another location. For U.S. Soldiers, that day will soon be here, at least in the virtual sense.

By early next year, a squad of up to nine Soldiers will be able to enter a nondescript training room, each taking their place on an assigned 10-by-10 foot pad, and within minutes be virtually transported together to a geospecific combat zone that's alive with the 3-D sights and 360-degree sounds of the battlefield. They can then carry out their assigned mission in a totally im-

mersive environment. To add to the realism of battle, the system will be able to estimate and gauge the effects of the injuries sustained in the virtual environment, either from impact munitions such as bullets and grenades or explosive effects from IEDs.

Called the Dismounted Soldier Training System (DSTS), the new device consists of a man-wearable immersive system that includes: a helmet complete with a mounted display, an integrated head tracker, stereo speakers and a microphone for voice and radio communications; a computer backpack for processing and display of the 3-D virtual environment; sensors for tracking body positions; and in-

strumented weapons for optics, sights and scope. The trainees' weapons will also be equipped with buttons in the foregrip to allow Soldiers to maneuver inside their virtual environment without actually moving.

In addition to all of the other “gee whiz” components, the DSTS will also accurately simulate the movement of ground vehicles, aircraft, dismounted infantry and guided weapons, as well as conforming visually with the environment by identifying such elements as footprints, disturbed soil, rolling terrain and dense vegetation. As well, Soldiers can train in any virtual environment including nighttime, daylight, and snow, rain or other

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Odierno Nominated as Next CSA as Dempsey Moves Up



U.S. Army Photo/C. Todd Lopez

President Barack Obama announced May 30, 2011, he will nominate Gen. Raymond T. Odierno as the next chief of staff of the Army. Odierno currently serves as commander of the U.S. Joint Forces Command.

Article Courtesy of the Army News Service

President Barack Obama announced May 30, 2011, that he will nominate Gen. Raymond T. Odierno as the next chief of staff of the Army.

Obama also announced he will nominate Gen. Martin E. Dempsey, the Army's current chief of staff, to be chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff.

Dempsey is expected to replace Adm. Mike Mullen when his term as chairman ends Sept. 30. The president made the announcement in the White House Rose Garden just before departing to Arlington National Cemetery for the national Memorial Day ceremony there.

"I'm announcing my choice for their successors today because it's essential that this transition be seamless and that we stay focused on the urgent national security challenges before us," Obama said.

If the Senate approves the nominations, Odierno—known

for overseeing the transition from surge to stability operations in Iraq from September 2008 to September 2010—will replace Dempsey as the chief of the staff after just five months of holding the Army's highest military position.

Dempsey became the 37th Army chief of staff April 11, 2011.

While Dempsey will have served just more than five months as the chief of staff of the Army, his term in the position is not the shortest among Army chiefs. That record is held by Lt. Gen. John C. Bates, who served from Jan. 15, 1906 to April 13, 1906, serving just less than three months in the position. And, Maj. John Dougherty served in an equivalent position, as the United States Army's "senior officer," from June 20, 1784 to Aug. 12, 1784—a stint of just 53 days.

Among those serving in the chief of staff position, a title first

used in 1903, it was Gen. George Marshall who held the position longest, more than six years, from Sept. 1, 1939 to Nov. 18, 1945. He served in the position for the duration of World War II. Gen. Winfield Scott served longest in the Army's top position, as its commanding general for 20 years, up through the first months of the Civil War.

Odierno currently serves as commander of the U.S. Joint Forces Command, which is being deactivated no later than Aug. 31, 2011. He entered the Army in 1976 and served as a platoon leader with the 56th Field Artillery Brigade.

Gen. David Petraeus, now commander of the International Security Assistance Force and U.S. Forces Afghanistan, served together with Odierno in the earliest days of the conflict in Iraq in 2003.

During the recent surge in Iraq, Petraeus served as Multi-Nation-

al Forces-Iraq commander while Odierno served as the Multi-National Corps-Iraq commander.

"His leadership of MNC-I was absolutely magnificent; his operational vision was exceptional; his determination was extraordinary; and his drive was legendary," Petraeus said. "It was an enormous privilege to have him as a key member of the team during that pivotal period in Iraq."

Odierno assumed Petraeus' position at MNF-I in September 2008 and was there through its transition to USF-I. Odierno "continued to make a tremendous impact in the land of the two rivers as the overall commander there for another two years," Petraeus said.

In October 2010, Odierno took command of U.S. Joint Forces Command, "shouldering with great skill and vision, the delicate task of transitioning vital capabilities of JFCOM to other organizations to enable the disestablishment of that command," Petraeus said.

The president himself commented on Odierno's successes in Iraq when making the announcement regarding his nomination to the chief of staff position.

"In three pivotal deployments to Iraq, he commanded the troops that captured Saddam Hussein, partnered with General Petraeus to help bring down the violence, and then transferred responsibility to Iraqi forces, allowing us to remove some 100,000 American troops and end our combat mission," Obama said.

"After years on the front lines, Ray understands what the Army must do to prevail in today's wars, to prepare for the future and to preserve the readiness of the Soldiers and families who are the strength of America's families," Obama said.

STRI Maximizes Better Buying Power Through Teamwork

By Kristen A. McCullough, PEO STRI Public Affairs Officer

Even before organizations across the Army and Department of Defense were asked to “do more without more,” PEO STRI was realizing savings through a simple yet multifaceted concept: teamwork.

“As you know, the Army is a ‘we’ organization, not a ‘me’ organization. PEO STRI is one element of the Army team working to ensure our military is the best trained fighting force in the world,” Dr. James Blake, the program executive officer for PEO STRI, said.

Working with other Army organizations and with other military services toward a common goal has produced fiscal efficiencies through reduced manpower, elimination of duplicative efforts and subsequent lower costs, Blake said. Different approaches to teamwork yield different benefits, yet all can lead to high-quality products for Warfighters at demonstrably lower costs than if the products had been undertaken by PEO STRI alone.

PEO STRI’s egress assistance trainer programs are key examples.

When PEO STRI received an Operational Needs Statement July 2006 to procure a training device to limit injuries sustained during vehicular rollovers, a joint effort was launched to rapidly develop the HMMWV Egress Assistance Trainer (HEAT), which instructs Soldiers how to safely get out of an overturned vehicle. Working with PEO Combat Support and Combat Service Support, engineering assistance from the Research, Development and Engineering Command’s Tank Automotive Research, Development and Engineering Center and manufacturing capability at Red River Army Depot, the HEAT was developed in five months and deployed around the globe, including locations in the theaters of operation, by September 2007.

Using the same construct and design premise for the HEAT, PEO STRI soon after developed the MRAP Egress Assistance

Trainer (MET) to teach Soldiers how to properly exit a rolled-over MRAP vehicle.

“By adding the additional design capabilities of the eight different MRAP vehicle cabs to the already proven HEAT system, the team provided a training capability in nine short months from concept development to the first fielding location at Camp Buehring, Kuwait,” Frank Schlemmer, project director for the HEAT and MET devices, said.

The HMMWV and MRAP egress trainers, both of which are Army solutions for Army problems, not only train Soldiers, but Warfighters from the other services that are getting ready to deploy to the combat zone.

“A U.S. Central Command message from April 17, 2010 requires all troops, civilians, contractors and foreign nationals that are required to ride in an MRAP vehicle to go through the training drills on the MET,” Schlemmer noted. Back in November 2010, the trainers at Camp Buehring alone trained 100,000 service members prior to their deployment to Iraq. To date, each of the military services has the following number of MET devices: Army – 47, Air Force – 20, Marine Corps – 18, and Navy – 10, each training thousands of combat-bound personnel worldwide.

“We know we are not in this alone. Just like our Soldiers are working hand-in-hand with their fellow Marines, Sailors and Airmen in Iraq and Afghanistan, we in the simulation and training community—military, contractors and academia alike—are one force supporting the strongest armed forces in the world,” Blake commented.

Much like PEO STRI’s teaming with other Army groups, the organization also partners with those in the modeling and simulation industry to ensure our Warfighters are receiving the best possible training, even in this era of budgetary constraints. Although government

partnering with industry is not an efficiency in and of itself, it certainly proves to be a wise way to do business.

For instance, PEO STRI—in partnership with its industry stakeholders—enhanced the Common Driver Trainer program to include the MRAP All Terrain Vehicle (M-ATV). With guidance from the Department of the Army, and the expertise from industry, PEO STRI was able to field M-ATV driver trainers quickly and affordably.

The M-ATV variant for the Common Driver Trainer allows Soldiers to drive these vehicles before they get to Afghanistan and under a number of hazardous driving conditions like narrow roadways and inclement weather.

“The M-ATV Common Driver Trainer was tasked to PEO STRI June 26, 2009 and we fielded the first system November 19, 2009,” Maj. Cassandra Forrester, the project director, said noting a mere 147

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U.S. Army PEO STRI Photo

The HMMWV Egress Assistance Trainer (HEAT) teaches Soldiers how to quickly and safely get out of an overturned vehicle. Using the same construct and design platform as the HEAT, the MRAP Egress Assistance Trainer instructs Soldiers how to properly exit a rolled-over MRAP vehicle. Since April 2010, all Warfighters, civilians, contractors and foreign nationals are required to train on the egress trainer before deploying to theater.



U.S. Army PEO STRI Photo

U.S. Soldiers use the Intelligence Electronic Warfare Tactical Proficiency Trainer to practice their tactical questioning skills. The Department of Homeland Security also utilizes this system to hone their law enforcement students’ interviewing skills. By using the technology, the Department of Homeland Security saved time and money; the saved resources were used to create new scenarios to hone the skills of both Army and law enforcement personnel.



LIVELY HURRICANE SEASON MEANS PREPARATION IS KEY

By Gina Guerzon, APEO Business Operations Support Staff

Charley, Frances, Ivan and Jeanne. If you didn't live in Florida during 2004, these names probably sound harmless to you. But if you did, you know that these were the names of the four devastating hurricanes that occurred within 44 days of each other. Each of these storms is still ranked among the top 10 costliest hurricanes in the U.S., according to the Insurance Information Institute.

The 2004 hurricane season reinforces the need to be prepared, and June 1 marked the official start of this year's hurricane season.

"Recent events including the deadly tornadoes in the central U.S. and southeast, flooding along the Mississippi [River] and other emergencies serve as a reminder that we should be prepared to address all hazards, including hurricanes," said Craig Fugate, administrator for the Federal Emergency Management Agency.

The Atlantic basin is expected to see an above-normal hurricane season this year, according to the seasonal outlook issued by the National Oceanographic Atmospheric Administration's Climate Prediction Center, a division of the National Weather Service. With 12 to 18 named storms, in which three to six are predicted to be a Category 3 hurricane and above, people should consider being more prepared than just filling up bathtubs with water and putting duct tape on the windows.

Individuals should also have an emergency plan, store an

emergency kit and stay informed of alerts and messages from local emergency officials such as the Florida Division of Emergency Management or the American Red Cross.

A personalized family disaster plan can be created, printed and saved for future emergencies at <http://www.floridadisaster.org/family/>. The plan will include recommended amounts of food and water based on your family information, contact information for your local emergency responders, maps of local evacuation zones and checklists of important steps to take before, during, and after a disaster.

In addition to home preparation, having an emergency operations plan at work is also important. PEO STRI senior leaders take emergency operation procedures seriously and a solid plan is in place.

It is important that employees ensure that administrative personnel have their latest mobile phone numbers, BlackBerry numbers, BlackBerry Personal Information Numbers (PINs) and home phone numbers for the emergency phone notification procedure.

In the event of a hurricane, the notification process will provide the PEO information on personnel injured, those needing assistance or those not contacted.

It is important that each employee's photo is on file in the Enterprise Business System in case of an emergency. In fact, this is mandatory; employees without a photo in EBS should contact PEO STRI's in-house photogra-

pher at 407-380-8352 to schedule an appointment.

In addition to providing administrative personnel with phone numbers and a photo, employees will be responsible for protecting their computer equipment. Plastic bags will be supplied by the PEO STRI Corporate Information Office and placed in a central location in each building for employees to obtain and safeguard government property.

PEO STRI will provide a duty status announcement should the office close at any point during an emergency. Employees should call the facility status line at 407-380-8501, and select option 2, to hear the announcement.

Planning, preparing and staying informed are three simple ways to keep safe in the event of a hurricane. Let's all do our part to protect ourselves, our families and each other.

WEBSITES FOR DISASTER INFORMATION

Facility Status:

navctsd.navair.navy.mil/AboutUs/NSAFacilityStatus/index.cfm

Shelter Information, Road Closures, etc.:

floridadisaster.org/citizen_emergency_info.htm

General Information:

www.ready.gov

Recommended Items to Include in a Basic Emergency Supply Kit:

- **Drinking water**, one gallon of water per person per day for at least three days
- **Food**, at least a three-day supply of non-perishable food
- **Can opener** for food
- **Battery-powered radio** and a NOAA Weather Radio with tone alert and extra batteries for both
- **Flashlight and extra batteries**
- **First aid kit and dust mask**
- **Plastic sheeting and duct tape** to shelter-in-place
- **Moist towelettes or toilet paper and garbage bags** for personal sanitation
- **Vice grips or a wrench** to turn off utilities
- **Local maps**
- **Whistle** to signal for help



Leader Development Vital to the Army's Future Success

By Kristen A. McCullough, PEO STRI Public Affairs Officer

One of PEO STRI's very own recently completed the Acquisition Support Center's program to develop the next generation of government leaders. The course, called the Competitive Development Group Army Acquisition Fellowship, allows participants to serve in assistant product manager and Army headquarters positions, and partake in the Darden Business Courses.

Todd Pesicek, who after completing the program returned to PEO STRI as PM Field OPS' project director for the Sustaining Ranges Program, completed a number of developmental assignments throughout the fellowship.

His first assignment was right here at PEO STRI serving as PM ITTS' assistant product manager

for systems integration where he supported the acquisition reviews for many testing programs.

Pesicek then completed one of Darden's Business Courses on "Leading Innovation: Thinking like America's Greatest Inventive Genius." He said he gained a great deal of knowledge from this and all of Darden's courses.

From there, Pesicek completed a six-month assignment with the Army Materiel Command where he managed the pre-positioned stock for Japan, Korea and Hawaii—an effort that helps to rapidly equip troops for a crisis.

He was then selected to be a fellow in the "Excellence in Government" Leadership Development Program that helps to mold the government's up and com-

ing leaders through innovative coursework, hands-on projects and detailed coaching. Also an important characteristic of leadership, Pesicek said he "gained a government-wide network of leaders to share experiences, ideas and best practices."

Pesicek's final duty assignment was back at PEO STRI serving as PM CATT's assistant product manager for the Route Clearance Training Suite program. And, his three-year fellowship culminated with a Darden Business Course on "Leading for Extraordinary Performance."

"The program provided great opportunities to learn and meet many people from various government agencies," Pesicek said. "I gained valuable knowledge,



leadership skills and acquisition experience during my time in the program that will benefit the government, Army and PEO STRI. I would like to thank everyone involved in this program for giving me this excellent opportunity."

Pesicek is applying all those lessons learned back at PEO STRI as he is currently supporting the Digital Ranges Training Systems and the Aerial Weapon Scoring System. Two other PEO STRI employees, Rita Tejeda and Monet Gray, are currently participating in the fellowship scheduled to wrap up in 2013.

Government and Industry Come Together to Discuss FUTURE IN CHALLENGING FISCAL ENVIRONMENT

By Kristen A. McCullough, PEO STRI Public Affairs Officer



U.S. Army Photo/Doug Schaub

Maj. Gen. Robert Brown, commanding general of the U.S. Army Maneuver Center of Excellence at Fort Benning, Ga., provided the keynote remarks at the annual Training and Simulation Industry Symposium in Orlando, Fla.

If this year's Training and Simulation Industry Symposium (TSIS) had a theme, it would be transparency.

The two-day gathering of 725 government and industry personnel provided business developers across Team Orlando's industry base a frank and open discussion about the upcoming business opportunities in the current era of budgetary constraints.

"I believe it's critically important that we, the government, get timely and accurate information to you, our industry members," Rob Reyenga, the deputy program executive officer for PEO STRI, said during his opening remarks at the conference. He stressed that clear, honest and upfront commu-

nication between PEO STRI and its industry stakeholders are more important than ever in this time of tightened defense budgets.

Also emphasizing the scrutiny being made to the budget, Maj. Gen. Robert Brown, the symposium's keynote speaker, was complimentary of the training and simulation community's success with creating efficiencies. "Training Soldiers with the blended training approach of integrating live, virtual, constructive and gaming is very efficient. LVC integration is the only way to get at the training complexities of the future," Brown, the commanding general of the Maneuver Center of Excellence at Fort Benning, Ga., said.

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236th



Army Birthday Ball



SATURDAY

THE EIGHTEENTH OF JUNE 2011

RENAISSANCE AT SEAWORLD



Success Marks Migration to Windows 7

By Megan Jeffers, PEO STRI External Affairs Specialist

It's been 65 years since the U.S. Army unveiled the world's first computer. Though its use was short-lived, the Electronic Numerical Integrator and Computer (ENIAC), was capable of quickly and accurately solving complex mathematical equations that would have taken days to solve by paper and pen. Realizing the usefulness of such a tool, post-World War II scientists employed ENIAC to improve the precision of the Army's firing, bombing and ballistic artillery tables, forever changing the way the military operated.

Today, technology is evolving faster than ever before; and like the ENIAC scientists, the Army refuses to lag behind the technology curve.

In April, PEO STRI began the arduous task of migrating all of its users from a Windows XP computer platform to the upgraded Windows 7. Mandated by the Army, computers across the network are to transfer to the new platform by 2013; PEO STRI, however, has al-

most completed this requirement.

"We did it very successfully," Tom Petrillo, PEO STRI's deputy corporate information officer, said. "We had almost 1,100 computers to migrate, and we gave ourselves a 60 to 90 day timeframe to complete the task. With the exception of two groups of boxes [computers], we not only met but exceeded our goal."

One hundred of the remaining computers are those that were either turned off when the migration occurred, those left in locked offices or those left at an employee's home. These computers will need to be brought to the Laptop Shop in Research Commons for their migration, Petrillo noted.

"The process of upgrading the system doesn't take long," he continued. "As a team, we developed what we call a 'light' touch. After beta testing the system on ourselves in March, we came up with an execution plan to complete the majority of migrations remotely. Since April, we've remotely de-

ployed Windows 7 to portions of the workforce each Friday night. The 'light' touch is a reference to members of the CIO team visiting each computer after its migration to physically ensure the migration occurred properly."

The remaining computers left to migrate are those used by the Acquisition Center, Petrillo continued. Due to incompatibilities between the Acquisition Center's current applications and Windows 7, approximately 200 computers were unable to be transferred. An Army vendor is working on the situation, however, and the rewritten applications are slated for release by the last fiscal quarter of this year or the first fiscal quarter of next year, he said.

"Once we receive the compatible programs, we'll be able to apply the same migration execution plan on those computers that we did with the rest of the workforce," Petrillo explained. "We are targeting a November deadline—at the latest—for the remainder of the computers."

The November deadline is key, he stressed, because the Army is scheduled to switch to the Enterprise E-mail system later the same month. The new e-mail system cannot operate on the Windows XP platform, so a complete transfer to Windows 7 is necessary.

In addition to XP's incompatibilities with the upcoming e-mail system, the Army also identified several vulnerabilities within the system that could have impacted the security of the Army network, Petrillo said. The Army encouraged the workforce to move to the Windows Vista operating system, but due to Windows 7 anticipated release, PEO STRI was granted a waiver to remain on its current platform until Windows 7 became available.

"We gave detailed guidelines for how we would secure the

system under XP until the transfer and it was approved," Petrillo said. "However we also agreed to switch to Windows 7 as soon as it was released for the Army's use thus why we transferred now as opposed to waiting until the 2013 deadline."

"We've had very few issues for a migration, especially of this size," Tim O'Hara, PEO STRI's corporate information officer, added. "Everything went very smoothly, and since we worked on the migrations over the weekends so as to not interfere with customers' work schedules, the process worked out very well."

Despite a few hiccups, such as problems with desktop and network printer connections, the CIO team has a 98 percent success rate in regard to completing its migration goal. For any users still having issues due to the transition, the CIO team encourages them to send a Help Desk ticket so they can fix any problems as quickly as possible.

"These guys [the CIO staff members] have done better than a Herculean job with the amount of time and effort they put forth on this undertaking," Petrillo praised. "They are phenomenal."

While their first-call closure rate has been slightly impacted because of an influx of Windows 7 calls, they are getting through the Help Desk tickets as quickly and efficiently as can be expected, he added.

"Windows 7 really is so much better than the 10-year-old platform we were on," Petrillo said. "The CIO team noticed immediately that computers were quicker, got onto websites faster and that overall, the system was much more secure."

When asked about next year's anticipated release of Windows 8, Petrillo replied, "Don't even go there!"



U.S. Army Photo/Troy Ryan

Tim O'Hara, chief information officer for PEO STRI, presents a letter of appreciation to Susan Kauffman during the CIO's Army birthday celebration June 14. Members of the CIO team received the letters for their work during the STRI-wide migration to Windows 7, as well as their continued technical assistance to the workforce.

TMO HELPS Wounded Warrior BUILD A NEW LIFE

By Rene Gilliland, PM ITTS Targets Management Office Staff

The employees of PM ITTS' Targets Management Office (TMO) recently found a whole new way to support the Warfighter. Rather than building targets for testing, they helped to build a new home for Army Cpl. Jeffery Williams who was paralyzed from the chest down in 2004 by an explosion in Iraq.

Working in support of Homes for our Troops, a non-profit organization that builds homes for severely injured veterans from Iraq and Afghanistan, members of the TMO team individually contributed funds to purchase an item needed for the home. Donations quickly surpassed the original goal of \$1,000, which paid for the therapy tub that would allow Williams to bathe without assistance.

The final donation total of \$2,500 was enough for the tub, the grab bars and the tile needed to complete the area.

TMO staff members presented the donations at the kick-off ceremony June 17 in Madison, Ala., which is also home to many Redstone Arsenal employees.

The following day, several staff members gave their time volunteering to help with construction, food service and other tasks to get Williams' new home off to a great start.

"We are proud to be part of the Redstone community and of this



Photo Courtesy of U.S. Army Photo/PM ITTS TMO

Employees of PM ITTS' Targets Management Office accompany Army Cpl. Jeffery Williams, who was wounded in action during his 2004 tour in Iraq.

effort to say thanks to a deserving hero," Bruce Truog, the deputy director of PM ITTS' TMO, said.

Williams' new home is the latest in the *100 More Homes for Our Troops* campaign. In the last seven years, Homes for our

Troops has provided homes to 100 military families. They are now beginning their second group of 100 homes, including one in the Orlando area. To get involved, visit their website at www.homes-fourtroops.org.

VIRTUAL TRAINING FOR INFANTRYMEN: *continued from cover*

weather elements that Mother Nature or, in this case, the trainer can throw at them.

The new technology represents a giant leap when compared to scenarios that could be played out in a virtual environment in 1999, when the need for a DSTS was first looked at in a four-year study conducted by PEO STRI, the Army Research Institute and the Army Research Laboratory. Back then, scenarios that could be introduced in the virtual environment were limited to daylight attacks only and Soldiers did not possess their full range of weapons, like grenades and smoke.

Though the idea of a DSTS has been in the pipeline for quite some time, the immediacy of the deployment of the training

system fits well with Chief of Staff of the Army Gen. Martin Dempsey's stated goal of focusing on squad-level training.

"As an Army, no one can challenge us at corps level, division level, brigade level or battalion level," he said when he appeared May 17, 2011, before the Senate Appropriations Committee's defense subcommittee. "I want to ensure we've done as much as possible to make sure that the same degree of overmatch exists at squad level.

"We'll look at the squad as a collective whole, not nine individual Soldiers, and determine how to enable it from the bottom up to ensure that the squad has the training, leadership, doctrine, power and energy, protection and

lethality to win when we send them into harm's way," Dempsey told lawmakers.

John Foster, PEO STRI's assistant project manager for the Close Combat Tactical Trainer in PM CATT, said the DSTS immersion offers a greater degree of flexibility than live training exercises based on physical mock-ups that can't replicate the realism of live bullets or artillery explosions.

He was quick to emphasize, though, that "virtual training complements and reinforces live and constructive training; it's not viewed as an either/or solution."

He said, however, that "Dismounted Soldier will put the Soldier in a virtual environment with a replica of his weapon in

his hands so he can go through all the same motions as in real life."

Another benefit of DSTS is its portability and small space requirement to train Soldiers.

Requiring just 1,500 square feet of space to operate in, which is less than the average square footage of a home in the United States, the DSTS can be used to train Soldiers prior to deployment as well as in forward areas of operations to train deployed Soldiers. While its focus is squad-level training, multiple systems can also be networked together to train larger military units.

The rollout of the new system is expected to be launched at Fort Benning, Ga., in March next year, followed by 124 training units being placed throughout the Army.



CITIZEN STRI

“What did you enjoy most about the Army Birthday Ball?”



“It was a great feeling to celebrate the Army’s birthday playing some chords during the reception! It gave me the opportunity to remember when I was a saxophone player at Fort Rucker, Ala., with the 98th Army Band.”

- Ramon Garcia, AV Support



“The thing that I enjoyed most about the Army Ball was being able to meet and say thank you to many great Soldiers who serve selflessly to keep our country free.”

- Traci Jones, APEO PS



“I was happy to see our wounded warriors. It is important they know they are not forgotten.”

- Lt. Col. Freddie King, PM ConSim



“I love the formal aspect and the patriotism of the Army Birthday Ball, but what I enjoyed most was the ceremony honoring the selflessness, dedication and perseverance of our nation’s Soldiers. It is very humbling to be among these heroic individuals.”

- Lucia Mezzancello, APEO CS



“The best part was the timing of the dancing. It was great to be able to dance so soon after dinner. We were on the dance floor kicking up our heels by 9:15 p.m.; it was a blast!”

- Kim Tedeschi, Acq. Center



“Still being able to fit into a uniform I purchased over two decades ago! Seriously, it’s that we ensure to pay tribute to all of the great men and women who have paid the ultimate sacrifice in the defense of our freedoms. This year was special for me because I actually got to propose this special toast!”

- Col. Mike Zarbo, PM ITTS

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

“*What did you do to celebrate July 4th?*” Send your response to Kristen.McCullough@us.army.mil and put Citizen STRI in the subject line.

BETTER BUYING POWER: *continued from page 3*

day turnaround from receiving the requirement to getting the trainer into the hands of the Warfighter.

PEO STRI looks at the Common Driver Trainer program as a prime example of efficiency. This family of simulators has stepped up to the plate time and time again to meet the training requirements of our Army. Using common components, the simulator can be transformed to train Soldiers to drive everything from a Stryker to a tank to an MRAP.

“The cost avoidance yielded by using the existing Common Driver Trainer design is valued at approximately \$24.3 million,” Forrester advised.

Additionally, PEO STRI recently integrated the geo-specific terrain database for Afghanistan into the Common Driver Trainer program. Because of these efforts, Soldiers can virtually “drive” on the actual streets in Afghanistan. Similarly, they added the Afghanistan database into other simulators, like the Close Combat Tactical Trainer, Call for Fire Trainer, Advanced Gunnery Training System, and Aviation Combined Arms Tactical Trainer, thereby allowing Soldiers to virtually train in their actual assigned deployment locations. As one can imagine, the imagery significantly adds to the fidelity of the training, and the technology reuse undeniably decreases the expense of the realism.

The ease at which PEO STRI teams with other organizations can often be attributed to its location in Central Florida, known to many as the mecca for military modeling and simulation. As part of “Team Orlando,” PEO STRI sits alongside all of the military services’ primary simulation and training providers, academic institutions that focus on simulation and industry partners that provide expertise to the military and universities.

This collaborative spirit dates back to 1950 when the Army and Navy simulation components signed an agreement to work in partnership on simulation systems that train our service members. The signing of the document launched a lasting training partnership that recently reached its 60-year anniversary and is the longest known standing agreement between any of the U.S. military services.

The strong relationship between the services continues to yield fiscal efficiencies. For example, PEO STRI signed an agreement with the Marine Corps’ Program Manager for Training Systems to work together on live training systems. When the Marine Corps saw that nearly 80 percent of their requirements were already being met by the Army through the Homestation Instrumentation Training System program, they piggybacked on the Army to get the training into the hands of Marines more quickly and save program dollars.

“The Marine Corps’ estimated cost and schedule for building a new alternative system would be approximately \$19 million and nine years,” Michael

Continued on next page



Dillon, the PEO STRI project director for the effort, said. The Marine Corps' actual cost of leveraging the Army's 80-percent solution was \$8 million and the actual time spent from concept development to fielding was two years. Because of the time and money saved, the Marine Corps reimbursed the Army \$300,000.

The collaboration also provides interagency efficiencies. The Department of Homeland Security uses PEO STRI's Intelligence Electronic Warfare Tactical Proficiency Trainer to help law enforcement students with their interviewing skills. The technology reuse reduces the cost of creating a new, but similar technology, and the high expense of hiring instructors and role players.

"The Department of Homeland Security realized cost benefits by reducing the number of instructor hours because the system is made available to students in a self-operated mode for after-hour use," Rick Jimenez, the system's lead engineer, said. "Students practice basic interviewing skills in a virtual environment which prepares the student for a more productive engagement in front of live role players, thereby reducing the number of role-player hours

required for training."

Due to the savings yielded from the acquisition approach of leveraging an existing contract and training capabilities, PEO STRI and the Department of Homeland Security were able to apply those resources back to the program for scenario and content generation.

"The effort resulted in a quicker, more affordable production of training capabilities for our non-Department of Defense customer," Jimenez noted. It also led to the content creation of scenarios that are of use to Army Soldiers and "greatly enhanced the original product at a significantly reduced—and shared—cost."

Although partnership and teamwork does have its challenges—like the time it takes to coordinate efforts, the concern about control and each party upholding their end of the bargain—PEO STRI senior leaders and program managers alike agree that the rewards greatly outweigh the trials.

"When meeting the demands of our uniformed service members, we see an immense value in collaborating, coordinating and cooperating with the joint community, our industry members and academia," Blake concluded. "Shared education and experience

fosters expertise, and we use that expertise to provide efficiencies in

the products and services we provide to our customers."

GOVERNMENT AND INDUSTRY COME TOGETHER: *continued from page 5*

In addition to presenting a host of business opportunities, PEO STRI senior leaders made some key announcements during the conference. Most notably, PEO STRI will be awarding a new contract in 2013 to support a wide range of training services.

"Over the years, PEO STRI has seen an increased number of customers and now we need to put a contract in place to support the demand," Jeff Simons, the assistant program executive officer for training services, said. While the new contract is not intended to replace any of the existing PEO STRI contracts, it will support the training services associated with preparing the force for Full Spectrum Operations.

Another new initiative presented at TSIS was PEO STRI's business decision to post contract award announcements to their public website under the Business Opportunities tab (<http://www.peostri.army.mil/BusinessOpportunities.jsp>). The first set of announcements will be made June 30, and they will remain on

the site for a full year.

Also contributing to PEO STRI's efforts in transparency, Joe Giunta, the director of the Acquisition Center, reinforced the acceptable communication process between the government and industry. Before a request for proposal is released, he said industry personnel can contact the project manager. Once the request for proposal is released, the lines of communication are not stopped, but instead, industry members should direct their questions and comments to the appropriate contracting officer. It's not until the source selection process that all communication is cut off.

TSIS, held June 15-16 at the Renaissance Orlando at Sea-World, included briefings by each of Team Orlando's military services about the latest requirements and procurement opportunities. The TSIS agenda and all the Army briefing slides are archived on the PEO STRI Web site: http://www.peostri.army.mil/PAO/events/20110615_TSIS2011.jsp.



A TOAST TO FORMAL OCCASIONS

When making a toast, the toaster stands, as do the people toasting. The person being toasted remains seated and does not drink to him or herself.

HOLIDAYS & Events

- PM ACTT Retirement of Charter.... July 1
- Independence Day.....July 4
- PM LTS Change of CharterJuly 8
- Acquisition Academy Begins.....July 18
- PM GCTT Change of CharterJuly 22

INSIDE PEO STRI

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TEAM ORLANDO IN PHOTOS



U.S. Army Photo/Doug Schaub

Marine Corps Col. David Smith (left) of Program Manager Training Systems (PM TRASYS) and Col. Mike Flanagan, project manager for PM TRADE, sign a memorandum of agreement establishing a partnership of technical support between PM TRADE's live training transformation product line and PM TRASYS' common live training systems June 3.



U.S. Army Photo/Doug Schaub

Sgt. Maj. Patrick Ogden thanks the PEO STRI leadership during the June 6 staff meeting after being presented the Meritorious Service Medal for his assignment with the U.S. Army Europe's G3 office.



U.S. Army Photo/Doug Schaub

William Moore (left), a member of the Senior Executive Service and deputy to the commanding general of the Army's Combined Arms Support Command (CASCOM) and Fort Lee, and Lt. Col. Charles Stein, product manager for PM CATT's Ground Combat Tactical Trainers, prepare for a demonstration of the Common Driver Trainer June 20.



U.S. Army Photo/Doug Schaub

In honor of Flag Day June 14, a special raising of the flag is held in front of the deFlorez building. The ceremony was hosted by the Navy and included remarks by Capt. Bill Reuter who saluted the Warfighter.



U.S. Navy Photo/Gary Wuthrich

The Army team, comprised of employees across all of PEO STRI, competed against the Navy softball team at the annual CMWRA picnic held at Red Bug Lake Park June 9.



U.S. Army Photo/Doug Schaub

Col. Francisco Espaillat (left), project manager for PM CATT, presents a PEO STRI lifetime membership certificate to Lt. Col. Jay Smith, assistant project manager for PM CATT's Reserve Component Training Systems, at Smith's June 10 retirement ceremony in Partnership II.

