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WORTH REPEATING

“The biggest fear that I have is we ask one Soldier to deploy, who hasn't been properly trained or is not ready to do their mission. It is something that we should never tolerate.”

~ Chief of Staff of the Army Gen. Ray Odierno speaking to leaders at Fort Carson, Colorado on July 23, 2015.

Army Chief of Staff Discusses Ongoing Training Needs in PEO STRI Town Hall Meeting

By Rick Gregory, PEO STRI Strategic Communications Support Staff

Army Chief of Staff Gen. Ray Odierno understandably has a lot on his mind while serving as the senior uniformed officer in the Department of the Army. Some responsibilities, though, weigh more heavily on his mind than others.

During a town hall meeting with members of the Program Executive Office, Simulation, Training and Instrumentation (PEO STRI) on June 15, he said what keeps him up at night is worrying about sending Soldiers into harm's way without the proper training. The combination of a drastically reduced budget, a drawdown in troop strength and unknown contingencies, he said, is what causes those restless nights.

“Today, we are creating enough readiness to meet our current operational commitments. If something happens and they want us to send 25,000 Soldiers somewhere, though, I am not sure those Soldiers are going to be trained,” he said. “That means it will cost lives and I have a real problem with that. When we are having discussions about budgets and dollars today it might look fine, but tomorrow it could be affecting the lives of our young men and women. That's what keeps me up at night!”

When those budget discussions take place, he said one question he has constantly been asked over his past four years serving as chief of staff is “Why do we even need an Army?” That question, he said,



U.S. Army photo by Doug Schaub

Gen. Ray Odierno, Army chief of staff, emphasizes a point while addressing the PEO STRI workforce during the town hall on June 15.

really bothers him. He said he is quick to ask a few questions of his own in response and offer a different question that they should be asking.

“Why do you think we have 143,000 Soldiers deployed in more than 150 countries? Who were the first Soldiers to show up in Eastern Europe when there was a problem? Who were the Soldiers responding to the troubles in the Middle East? Who is doing the work in 12 different countries in Africa? What you should be asking

is what we can do to make us a better Army,” the general said.

Making a better Army and ensuring Soldiers are trained and ready for the next contingencies regardless of the challenges thrown his way is exactly what he is laser-focused on doing, he said, telling the PEO STRI audience that is where they play a major role.

“The great work that you have to do is ensure that we are able to train our Soldiers whether it be on individual weapons systems,

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PROGRAM EXECUTIVE OFFICER



MG JON MADDUX



**I SINCERELY
APPRECIATE
THE SOLID
PROFESSIONALISM
DISPLAYED
THROUGHOUT THE
ORGANIZATION**

— MG Jon Maddux

To The PEO STRI Workforce,

May marked one year since I had the privilege to assume the leadership responsibilities for this great organization.

Throughout this past year, I have asked you to meet head-on the challenges we face as we adapt to the evolving training needs of an Army in transition. These challenges necessitated a myriad of changes within PEO STRI and, I am sure, made many in the workforce a bit uncomfortable as change to the norm often does. Some of the changes just made good operational and fiscal sense for our organization while others were the same ones mandated throughout the Army.

From taking a hard look at the sustainability of our current portfolio of training products and a much-needed review of our manpower requirements to adjusting the command staff structure to align with other Army organizations and meeting the requirement to reduce our command-select list authorization by one, we have certainly had a busy year.

I sincerely appreciate the solid professionalism displayed throughout the organization as we not only met these challenges, but we also continued to exceed in our mission to develop, acquire and sustain simulation, training, testing, and modeling solutions to achieve Army readiness. Thank you for a job well done!

As we are into the summer months I encourage you to take some much deserved time off to spend with your family and friends.

Regards from your Program Executive Officer,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jon Maddux".

CDC Urges Everyone: Get Ready to Stay Cool When Temperatures Soar

By the Center for Disease Control

Get medical attention immediately if you have any symptoms of

HEAT STROKE

- **warm, dry skin with no sweating**
- **rapid pulse**
- **confusion and/or unconsciousness**
- **high fever**
- **throbbing headache**
- **nausea/vomiting**



©2012 American Heart Association. Also known as the Heart Fund.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) is urging people to prepare for extreme heat this summer by staying cool, hydrated, and informed. “No one should die from a heat wave, but every year on average, extreme heat causes 658 deaths in the United States — more than tornadoes, hurricanes, floods, and lightning combined,” said Robin Ikeda, MD, MPH, acting director of the National Center for Environmental Health and Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry. “Taking common sense steps in extreme temperatures can prevent heat-related illnesses and deaths.”

Extreme heat can lead to very high body temperatures, brain and organ damage, and even death. People suffer heat-related illness when their bodies are unable to compensate and cool themselves properly. Extreme heat affects everyone, but the elderly, children, the

poor or homeless, persons who work or exercise outdoors, and those with chronic medical conditions are most at risk.

A study released today in CDC’s Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report found that 7,233 heat-related deaths occurred in the United States from 1999 to 2009. An analysis of 2012 data indicates that deaths are on the rise. In a 2-week period in 2012, excessive heat exposure resulted in 32 deaths in four states, four times the typical average for those states for the same 2-week period from 1999 to 2009. More than two thirds of the deaths (69 percent) occurred at home, and 91 percent of those homes lacked air conditioning. Most of those who died were unmarried or living alone, and 72 percent were male.

According to CDC’s Environmental Tracking Network from 1999 to 2009 three

states, Arizona, California, and Texas accounted for approximately 40 percent of all heat-related deaths in the United States. Across the nation, heat-related deaths occur more frequently among males and among adults aged 65 and older.

CDC recommends that local governments engage in advanced planning and preparation to minimize deaths from extreme heat events and to heighten public awareness about the dangers of excessive heat exposure. Advance planning should include increasing access to air conditioning, cooling stations or other public locations that can be used by residents for temporary relief from heat, particularly when temperatures are elevated for several consecutive days.

“Heat-related illnesses and deaths are preventable. Taking steps to stay cool, hydrated and informed in extreme temperatures can prevent serious health effects like heat exhaustion and heat stroke,” said Ethel Taylor, DVM, MPH, the study’s lead author.

Take these steps to prevent heat-related illnesses, injuries, and deaths during hot weather:

- *Stay in an air-conditioned indoor location as much as possible.*
- *Drink plenty of fluids even if you don't feel thirsty.*
- *Schedule outdoor activities carefully.*
- *Wear loose, lightweight, light-colored clothing and sunscreen.*
- *Pace yourself.*
- *Take cool showers or baths to cool down.*
- *Check on a friend or neighbor and have someone do the same for you.*
- *Do not leave children or pets in cars.*
- *Check the local news for health and safety updates.*



Pulford Assumes Role of Acting Deputy Program Executive Officer

By Rick Gregory, PEO STRI Strategic Communications Support Staff

Mr. Scott Pulford, formerly PEO STRI's G-3, has been appointed by Maj. Gen. Jon Maddux, program executive officer, as the acting deputy program executive officer beginning July 6, replacing Ms. Chérie Smith who held the position since January.

Smith thanked the PEO STRI team for their professionalism during her tenure.

"I want to thank each of you for your professionalism, advice, and assistance during my time here in Orlando," she wrote in an email to the workforce. "I am so impressed with the work you do and the technical competence you bring to the job every day. The G staff and special staff continued to demonstrate their willingness to help work through challenges and get us all to YES.

"STRI is a great organization and our PMs, Field Operations and FMS teams provide critical capability to our Army and its Soldiers. Going forward, your products will ensure we are able to continue to have the best trained Army in the world.

"What I liked the most about this job is the sense of shared responsibility to getting the job done. The Army Contracting Command-Orlando's support and the science and technology infusion from the Simulation Training and Technology Center are critical to continue our success. It is great to see our three groups come together across the organizational boundaries to do the right thing. Your professionalism is inspiring."

Pulford brings extensive experience to his new role, having served on active duty with the Army for 22 years, six of which were with PEO STRI, first as the assistant product manager in PM Ground Combat Tactical Trainers (GCTT) and, after an assignment in Iraq, he served as the product manager for GCTT. He retired at the rank of colonel in 2009 and returned to PEO STRI where he has held increasingly responsible leadership positions as a government civilian.



Colonel Tim Wallace Joins PEO STRI as New Chief of Staff

By Rick Gregory, PEO STRI Strategic Communications Support Staff

Colonel Tim Wallace joined PEO STRI in May to fill the chief of staff position vacated by Col. Sharlene Donovan when she deployed to Afghanistan.

He comes to PEO STRI after serving as the acquisition advisor to the Director of the Army Capabilities Integration Center located in Fort Eustis, Virginia. During that assignment, he was responsible for helping facilitate and synchronize major decision in the areas of research and development, requirements and integration of systems into operational forces.

No stranger to Program Executive Offices (PEOs), he was previously assigned as the program manager for power generation equipment at PEO Command, Control and Communications – Tactical. Following that, he was the project manager at PEO Soldier. His duties there included managing several programs that digitally connect Soldiers to the Army's tactical network; enhancing safety and survivability for Army aircrews; providing renewable energy and power scavenger capabilities; and establishing a cross-organization Soldier equipment acquisition integration capability.

Besides various other assignments in the United States, Wallace has deployed to Egypt, Qatar, Kuwait, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Honduras and Uzbekistan.

"We are very happy to have Tim on board," said Maj. Gen. Jon Maddux, PEO STRI's program executive officer, at the May town hall meeting. "He brings a lot of experience to the table and is a very valuable asset to the leadership team here at PEO STRI."



PEO STRI Supports Lighthouse Central Florida's Summer Youth Program

By Rick Gregory, PEO STRI Strategic Communications Support Staff

According to the 2013 American Community Survey, there are more than a half-million children with vision difficulty in the U.S., putting them at a great disadvantage when entering the work world.

Locally, a non-profit agency called Lighthouse Central Florida is doing its part to help those with visual impairment overcome the hurdles they face in everyday life. The organization, as their website states, "gives people with sight impairment the skills they need to achieve their full potential to live independently and maintain or increase their quality of life."

As a community outreach initiative, PEO STRI partnered with Lighthouse Central Florida in their Summer Youth Program by welcoming Yamil Roman, a sight-impaired, soon-to-be senior from Freedom High School, into the workforce for the month of July.

Students accepted in the program are committed to 100 hours of work at participating organizations to gain real-life experience in the workforce. Cortes was kept busy throughout his tenure by completing tasks in G-1, PM ITTS and PM TRADE.

As many young men would, he was very impressed with being around the Army and being able to experience using some of the simulators PEO STRI fields.

"My favorite experience was being able to fire weapons of the Engagement Skills Trainer," he said. "I also really enjoyed spending time talking with Col. Haggerty in PM ITTS. He also gave me a coin and that was awesome!"

Ken Richmond, PEO STRI's Equal Employment Opportunity manager, said everyone who had the opportunity to work with Roman was very impressed with his attitude and desire to learn.

"Yamil is a very smart student with great aspirations to excel in all that he does," Richmond said. "He has a great sense of humor and is a delight to work with."

Richmond said PEO STRI will continue to seek opportunities to work with Lighthouse of Central Florida in the future.



Ceremony Marks Army Contracting Command-Orlando's Activation

By Rick Gregory, PEO STRI Strategic Communications Support Staff

On Friday, July 24, PEO STRI's former Contracting Center officially became the Army Contracting Command-Orlando (ACC-Orlando) during an activation ceremony held in Partnership III. Led by Joe Giunta, the executive director and Principal Assistant Responsible for Contracting, ACC-Orlando now reports directly to the Army Contracting Command (ACC) headquartered in Redstone Arsenal, Ala.

Maj. Gen. Ted Harrison, ACC's commanding general, said during his remarks that the new organization will focus on ACC's four key lines of effort of developing the contracting workforce, continuous process improvement, enabling industry performance and improving customer support.

He also pointed out that their mission would basically remain unchanged.

"ACC-Orlando will remain in its present location and configuration and will continue to apply world-class contracting support to PEO STRI and the United States Army," he said.

In conclusion, Harrison thanked a variety of individuals and organizations who he

said were instrumental in ensuring it was a smooth transition.

"I would like to thank Maj. Gen. Jon Maddux and the PEO STRI team for their role in supporting this transition and for their continued partnership and support," he said. "As well, I thank all of the members of the Orlando community, both government and industry partners alike, for their great support and the commitment they have made to our Soldiers."

Giunta also shared his appreciation to "all of the dedicated professionals who made this ceremony possible," and pointed out Team Orlando and Harrison in particular.

"Team Orlando is truly a great community of professionals dedicated to providing world-class training and testing products and services, not only to our Soldiers, but also our Sailors, Airmen and Marines," Giunta said. "Most importantly, though, I want to thank you, Maj. Gen. Harrison. With your leadership, we are now postured to thrive as a member of the Army Contracting Command. We will endeavor to not let you down."



U.S. Army photo

Maj. Gen. Ted Harrison, commanding general, Army Contracting Command, addresses the attendees at the activation ceremony for Army Contracting Command-Orlando on July 24.



U.S. Army photo

Maj. Gen. Ted Harrison, commanding general, Army Contracting Command, and Joe Giunta, executive director and Principal Assistant Responsible for Contracting, Army Contracting Command-Orlando (ACC-Orlando), uncased the ACC-Orlando colors during the organization's activation ceremony on July 24.



U.S. Army photo

Joe Giunta, executive director and Principal Assistant Responsible for Contracting, Army Contracting Command-Orlando (ACC-Orlando), and Maj. Gen. Ted Harrison, commanding general, Army Contracting Command, cut the cake at the reception following the activation ceremony for ACC-Orlando on July 24.

PEO STRI ENJOYS FAMILY PICNIC, ORGANIZATIONAL DAY





TWO THOUSAND FIFTEEN



PEO STRI Retires PM CATT, ConSim Charters, Stands Up PM ITE

By Rick Gregory, PEO STRI Strategic Communications Support Staff

May 27, 2015 was a historic day in the annals of PEO STRI as two of its storied project manager (PM) charters, Combined Arms Tactical Trainers (CATT) and Constructive Simulation (ConSim) were retired and a new one, Integrated Training Environment (ITE), stood up.

STRI's program executive officer, Maj. Gen. Jon Maddux, impressed upon the attendees at both ceremonies that the changes were driven by the Army's strength reduction which resulted in the organization's loss of one PM command select list position.

He added that, regardless of the unit being deactivated, it always brings a mixture of feelings.

"Be it the casing of the colors of a storied combat unit or deactivating the charter of historically highly successful organizations like PM CATT and ConSim, it can be a somber time for some," he said. "However, this is actually a celebration of your successes. You should be happy to know the hard work you put in and the great training products the two team have fielded will still be preparing our Soldiers for their next mission. Thanks to you, our Soldiers are able to take an unfair fight to our nation's enemies."

During the PM CATT ceremony, the outgoing project manager, Col. Harry Buhl, said the first thing he noticed when he joined the CATT team in 2012 was the overall positive attitude they displayed.

"With the CATT team's attitude and vision, we conducted detailed analysis of what had to be done," he said. "We rolled up our sleeves, got dirty and built better readiness options for our Army. Today, we have more than 70 product lines that have transitioned to our sister PMs.

"We have fielded billions of dollars in capabilities and we have saved the Army more than \$3 for every dollar they have spent on our training devices. Moving forward, we will continue to contribute by delivering cost-effective solutions that save lives and deliver readiness."

During the afternoon ceremony retiring the PM ConSim charter and standing up the PM ITE charter, Maddux said he couldn't be more excited about the future for the ITE team.

"We are standing up a collaborative environment to include industry, academia and the government's science and technology labs to bring to bear all of the power that is in

front of us," he said. "But more importantly, it is standing up the ITE in conjunction with the Training and Doctrine Command and our other triad partner, Department of the Army Military Operations – Training."

Col. Ron Gaddy, previously the project manager for ConSim and the new PM for ITE, welcomed his new team.

"I want to honor those who served so faithfully in PM CATT and PM ConSim and to focus on taking our first steps together as a new team," he said. "It isn't about the ConSim or CATT retirements; it's about the new beginning for ITE. I am very humbled and honored to serve with all of you in this journey that lies ahead."

**"I WANT TO HONOR
THOSE WHO SERVED
SO FAITHFULLY IN
PM CATT AND PM CONSIM
AND TO FOCUS ON
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A NEW TEAM."**

— MG JON MADDUX

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U.S. Army photo

Maj. Gen. Jon Maddux, program executive officer, presents the PM ITE charter to Col. Ron Gaddy as Sgt. Maj. Alan Higgs, senior enlisted advisor to the PEO, looks on.



U.S. Army photo

Col. Harry Buhl (left), PM CATT, passes the organizational charter to Maj. Gen. Jon Maddux, program executive officer, as Sgt. Maj. Alan Higgs, senior enlisted advisor to the PEO, looks on.



U.S. Army photo

Col. Ron Gaddy (left), PM ConSim, passes the organizational charter to Maj. Gen. Jon Maddux, program executive officer, as Sgt. Maj. Alan Higgs, senior enlisted advisor to the PEO, looks on.

STRI IN FOCUS



U.S Army Photo

Col. Vince Malone (center), Project Manager Training Devices, presents the charter for Product Manager Combat Training Instrumentation Systems (PdM CTIS) to Lt. Col. Kenneth Walters (right) as outgoing PdM CTIS, Lt. Col. George Padilla, looks on, during a change of charter ceremony on June 26.



U.S Army Photo

Col. Vince Malone, Project Manager Training Devices, presents the Certificate of Retirement to Lt. Col. George Padilla, the outgoing Product Manager Combat Training Instrumentation Systems, during the retirement ceremony held on June 26.



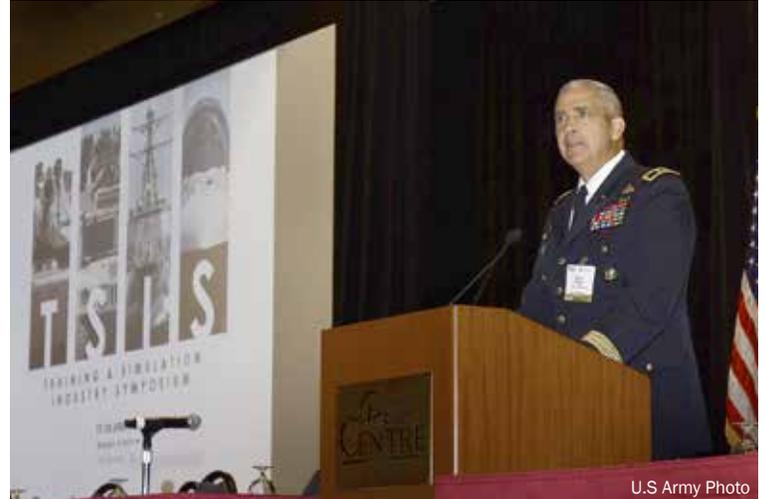
U.S Army Photo

Maj. Gen. Jon Maddux, program executive officer, presents the Certificate of Retirement to Mr. Russ McBride, outgoing director of Field Operations, during the retirement ceremony held on June 22.



U.S Army Photo

Newly promoted Col. Daniel Irizarry speaks to the attendees at his promotion ceremony on May 26 as his family looks on.



U.S Army Photo

Maj. Gen. Jon Maddux, program executive officer, speaks to the audience at the Training & Simulation Industry Symposium held in Orlando on June 18.



U.S Army Photo

PM TRADE's Consolidated Product-line Management (CPM) Next Team, along with Sgt. Maj. Alan Higgs, senior enlisted advisor (left) and Maj. Gen. Jon Maddux, program executive officer (middle), pose with the PM TRADE team after they presented the Team of the Quarter for the second quarter of fiscal year 2015 to them at the May town hall meeting. PM TRADE members, from left, are Pat Sincebaugh, Jason Graham, Joe Fratarcangeli, Kyle Platt, Adrian Ravelo, Tom Taylor, Gina Boyanton, Marie Bittikofer, Angela Pritchard and Graham Fleener. Team members not pictured are Tom Coffman, Steve Davis, Mark Dasher, Mike Dillon, Doug Greenwood, Jim Griffith, Mike Harris, Brian Kemper, Jeremy Lanman, JaNay Mills, Lisa Parker, Carrie Pickett, Anthony Stephenson and Tom Vayda.



U.S Army Photo

Maj. Gen. Jon Maddux, program executive officer, presents the promotion certificate to newly-promoted Col. Johnny Powers in the promotion ceremony held on July 2.



Department of Defense photo

Stephen Welby, deputy assistant to the Secretary of Defense for Systems Engineering (left) presents a Department of Defense Value Engineering Achievement Award to PM TRADE's Todd James from while Col. Jon Buonerba, Army Materiel Command, looks on during a ceremony at the Pentagon on June 25. The award acknowledges outstanding achievements and encourages additional projects to improve government and contractor productivity.



U.S Army Photo

Maj. Gen. Jon Maddux, program executive officer, presents the charter for Project Manager Instrumentation, Targets and Threat Simulators (PM ITTS) during the assumption of charter ceremony held on July 17.



U.S Army Photo

Rachel Overman, PM CATT, was named the Employee of the Quarter for the second quarter of fiscal year 2015 at the May town hall meeting.



U.S Army Photo

Col. William Canaley has assumed the role of director of Field Operations, replacing Mr. Russ McBride who retired from government service on June 22.



U.S Army Photo

Maj. Gen. Jon Maddux, program executive officer, presents the Superior Civilian Service Award to Rick Copeland for his service as the acting Project Manager Instrumentation, Targets and Threat Simulators (PM ITTS) during the assumption of charter ceremony held on July 17.



U.S Army Photo

Mr. Jeff Jones has joined PEO STRI's special staff as the cyber director.

marksmanship ranges, a Conduct of Fire Trainer facility for tank gunners or facilities for us to shoot our Bradleys,” he explained. “We have to continue to make sure that we improve those and have the best systems possible.”

Those systems, he said, should be used to get the Army back to doing tough, realistic home station training in order to build capacity and capability before conducting live training.

“We have to have a building block program that starts with individual- and platoon-level simulations training that then goes to individual- and platoon-level live training; company simulations training, company live training; battalion simulations training, battalion live training; brigade simulations training, brigade live training and then on to a training center. That’s the kind of training we want to see all of our units doing. For me, it’s absolutely essential for us in the future.”

Another aspect of future training requirements the chief feels is absolutely essential is working as a team on those

requirements. He praised the PEO STRI team for doing just that.

“I have been pleased that over the past year or so PEO STRI, the Training and Doctrine Command and the Department of the Army have been actively building on that. We have to be talking with each other as we develop requirements and new techniques. If we don’t, we will start wasting dollars and we won’t get the capabilities that we need.

“I have seen some of the work you have done. I have seen the difference that it makes. I challenge all of you to continue to be innovative. Take some chances. Come up with systems and capabilities that are going to make us a better Army. By doing that, you will be responsible for saving many lives in the future.”

Going forward, he said two major challenges will be determining the right balance between simulated training and live training and preparing Soldiers for the different cultural and geographical operations they may find themselves in.

“How do we do simulation training in a more realistic way that makes it easier for our Soldiers to translate that when they have to do it live?” he asked. “How do we provide them the feedback they need in order to assess themselves and their platoons, companies, battalions and brigades so they can do it better next time?”

“The other challenge is we might be asking some groups of Soldiers to be prepared to go to Europe; another group to do some operations in Africa or the Middle East and they are all different. How do we build the flexibility in our systems that allows us to do that? That’s why I thought it was really important for me to come down here because you all play such a critical role in all of that.”

In meeting those challenges, Odierno cautioned that when building future requirements, acquiring the perfect solution should not necessarily be the goal. He said in the past that has not always proven the most efficient and effective path to take.

“When we go after utopia, it takes us 10 to 12 years in the process and we end up not getting there and have a failed program,” he explained. “We have to be realistic in tradeoffs.”

He used the M1 Abrams tank, which entered service in 1980, as an example of how it should be done when developing new requirements.

“It is still, right now, the best tank in the world. It is nothing like the first M1 tank. We built it and left room for constant upgrades and improvements,” the general said. “Though maybe we didn’t have the best tank initially, we continued to develop the right requirements that enabled us to use current technology.”

In closing, he talked about the recently released new Army Operating Concept that outlines where the Army needs to go into the future. He said it means looking at how the Army can bring the effects of air, sea, space and cyber space to the ground in order to be successful.

“How do we integrate those capabilities across all of the domains on the ground? How do we train for that?” he asked. “You have to help us figure that out.”



U.S. Army photo

Lt. Col. Corey Hemingway, product manager Live Training Systems, briefs Army Chief of Staff Gen. Ray Odierno during the chief's visit to PEO STRI on June 15.