Bolton Appoints Blake HCA for M&S Programs

By Kristen Dooley, Public Affairs Specialist

Mr. Claude M. Bolton, Assistant Secretary of the Army for Acquisition, Logistics and Technology, granted Dr. James T. Blake the Head of Contracting Activity (HCA) for simulation, training and instrumentation programs Feb. 26.

“The authority of an HCA is significant, and its successful exercise is critical to the mission of the Program Executive Office for Simulation, Training and Instrumentation (PEO STRI) and the U.S. Army as a whole,” Bolton, who also acts as the Army’s Senior Procurement Executive, said.

Before PEO STRI received HCA authority, all contracts were solicited under the Naval Air Warfare Center Training Systems Division. The partnership dates back to when the Army had a very small presence in Orlando and it did not make sense for PEO STRI to have its own HCA.

“It allows the Army to formally recognize the two billion dollars in contracting activity that takes place here in Orlando, and it allows us to control our own destiny in terms of customer support,” said Blake, the Program Executive Officer for STRI.

Now, PEO STRI can support contracts that were beyond the scope of the Navy’s mission.

Under the new authority, PEO STRI’s senior leadership said they have a strong responsibility to support the Department of Defense in its entirety including all of the services.

“This HCA authority will give us an enhanced capability to support the Warfighters,” Blake said.

The HCA slightly realigns PEO STRI’s organizational structure since a Principal Assistant Responsible for Contracting (PARC) will be appointed by Blake. Kim Denver, director of contracts, was appointed as the interim PARC.

“The PARC will be a senior staff official of the contracting function within the contracting activity. The PARC acts as [Blake’s] alter ego for the many duties [he] must delegate as HCA,” Bolton stated.

The PARC is responsible for building an acquisition center by putting together contracting personnel to create policy and a legal staff to guide them.

“With a 75-percent DAWIA [Defense Acquisition Workforce Improvement Act] certification rate, we already have the best trained workforce in the Army’s acquisition community,” Blake said. “Having the HCA authority will enable us to increase those numbers and our effectiveness as the Army’s leader in providing simulation and training technology.”
Georgia Tech Professor Holds M&S Courses for STRI

By Kristen Dooley, Public Affairs Specialist

The Program Executive Office for Simulation, Training and Instrumentation (PEO STRI), in collaboration with the Department of the Army and the Georgia Institute of Technology (Georgia Tech), hosted the second of six courses in Georgia Tech’s modeling and simulation certification program.

The class, held Feb. 27 through March 1 in Central Florida’s Research Park, explored distributed simulation standards that include topics such as interoperability, scalability, and synchronization.

“Distributed simulation is kind of like distance learning where students can be anywhere,” said Dr. Roger Smith, chief technology officer for PEO STRI. “In our case, the simulators can be in different places, but still interoperate with each other.”

The 26-student class is taught by Dr. Margaret Loper, senior research scientist for the Georgia Tech Research Institute.

“Since we are all in the same profession, we all know some of the information [being taught]. I’d say that 80-percent of what [Loper] says, at least one person in the class already knows something, or everything, about it.”

The six graduate-level classes cover modeling and simulation in the areas of networking, systems engineering, and distributed and parallel technologies. The students who successfully complete the courses will receive a modeling and simulation certification from Georgia Tech.

Generations of Women Moving History Forward

Women have served in the United States Army since 1775. They nursed the ill and wounded, laundered and mended clothing, and cooked for the troops in camp on campaign; services that did not exist among the uniformed personnel within the Army until the Twentieth Century. Women are an invaluable and essential part of the Army. Currently, women serve in 91 percent of all Army occupations and make up about 14 percent of the active Army. Women continue to have a crucial role in the War on Terrorism and their sacrifices in this noble effort underscore their dedication and willingness to share great sacrifices.

Spc. Craig Morrison, 1st Cavalry Division receives his Shoulder Sleeve Insignia for War-Time Service from Sgt. 1st Class Zenalia Moses.
Capt. Herbert C. Crosby, a U.S. Army Reservist, was born on Memorial Day in 1947. As a young child, he always thought the American Flag flew in honor of his birthday.

Capt. Crosby was a blonde-haired, blue-eyed Eagle Scout, high-school varsity football player, and popular young man who loved boating, cars, airplanes, the Beatles and a good practical joke.

His family and friends affectionately dubbed Capt. Crosby “Herby.”

“Being from a patriotic family, Herby wanted to serve his country and didn’t want to be drafted,” said Herby’s sister, Mary Lou Wade. “He enlisted in the U.S. Army in November 1966 after graduating from high school in Georgia.”

During the winter of 1970, the Crosby’s were delivered terribly grave news: Herby, a Firebird combat gunship pilot, was Missing in Action.

“Two Army representatives personally delivered the telegram to my father at his office. Dad was devastated. He was not the crying type, but with this news, he cried so very hard,” Wade lamented.

Wade said her father, a World War II veteran, knew that Missing in Action was indicative of death. Herby’s mother, on the other hand, was less intuitive.

“Mom didn’t understand the significance of Missing in Action and thought they would find him soon. [She thought] he was just lost in a village and that the people couldn’t understand him,” Wade reminisced.

“It was a very sad day in the Crosby home.”

On Jan. 10, 1970, the Soldiers were returning to their base at Chu Lai, South Vietnam aboard a UH-1C Huey helicopter. Due to bad weather, their helicopter went down over Quang Nam Province. A search was initiated for the crew, but no sign of the helicopter or crew was spotted.

In 1989, the Socialist Republic of Vietnam (S.R.V.) gave U.S. specialists 25 boxes containing the remains of the U.S. servicemen related to this incident.

It was then that the Crosby’s caught a glimpse of hope.

In 1991, the first of the four Soldiers aboard the helicopter was positively identified. Then in February 2006, Herby’s sisters were notified that of the three unidentified Soldiers killed in the helicopter crash, two were positively identified. The fourth combat pilot, Herby, was identified by his dog tag.

“My sister and I were so elated,” Wade fondly recalled. “We could hardly contain ourselves. I was so happy, my heart was pounding.”

In late July 2006, the Crosby’s received word that Herby was in fact one of the positively identified, but it was not until Nov. 28, 2006 when the family received the official notification.

“This was the time when mom signed the official paperwork accepting the findings presented to us as Herby’s remains,” Wade said. “This is also when we met Maj. Kenneth Gambles for the first time.”

Maj. Gambles was assigned as the Casualty Assistance Officer (CAO) for the Crosby family. At the Program Executive Office for Simulation, Training and Instrumentation, Maj. Gambles performs duties as the assistant product manager for the Synthetic Environment Core project; however as a U.S. Soldier, his duties do not end there.

“When I was informed I was the CAO for a repatriation of remains case, I thought, well, this will be interesting,” Maj. Gambles recalled. “I got the full appreciation [of the case] the morning prior to meeting the family when I was briefed by the director of the Department of the Army Casualty Office. Then, we went to meet the family; I felt extremely honored to execute this duty.”

It was during the Crosby’s and Maj. Gambles’ first meeting that Herby’s mother was presented with his identification tags.

“This was the most touching moment I have ever seen. To see her rubbing the dog tag, knowing it was the last thing on his body and that she had it now after all these years was just beautiful,” Wade said.

The Crosby family said Maj. Gambles, who takes his duty as a CAO very seriously, has been integral in helping them get through the entire process.

“Maj. Gambles has, since the first time meeting us, presented himself in the utmost professional manner, yet very sympathetic and understanding of our feelings of bittersweet grief and times of joy,” Wade commented.

The family said they feel entirely comfortable with sharing information with Maj. Gambles and have placed the utmost trust in him with making preparations for their trip to Arlington National Cemetery in May.

And just as Herby believed the American flag flew in honor of his birthday so many years ago, the Crosby’s thought it befitting to have Herby’s interment as close to his birth date as possible so that “the flag will always fly in honor not only of his birthday, but also for his sacrifice to our country and freedom.”

“I honestly don’t know what I would do if not for the guidance and assistance of Maj. Gambles,” Wade praised. “It makes me so proud to see how the Army takes care of their own and their families. Our family is honored to have Maj. Gambles assist us during this truly memorable time in American history.”

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Every year the Defense Security Service (DSS) Counterintelligence Office prepares and distributes a SECRET publication, which identifies foreign collection trends directed at U.S. defense industry so that U.S. technologies and classified information may be better protected and to enhance threat awareness within the defense community.

The publication identifies the most frequently targeted U.S. technologies, the preferred collection methods, entities attempting the collection and the countries where collection originates.

The complete (classified) report is available for your review in the Security Office. If you would like an unclassified (abbreviated) copy of the report, please contact the Security Office via e-mail.

This particular article focuses only on key unclassified elements within the report to help you recognize and report suspicious activities and counter-threats to our technologies.

In Fiscal Year 2005, Information Systems Technology was targeted at a rate almost twice that of any other technology category. This continues a trend seen since 2003.

The most frequently targeted subcategories of Information Systems Technology were information communications and modeling and simulation. Each of these subcategories had an equal number of reported incidents, accounting for 17% each of incidents related to Information Systems Technology.

The steady increase in incidents targeting modeling and simulation technology during 2004 and 2005 is noteworthy.

From an industry perspective, DSS sees a continuing trend of increased contact reports from defense contractors. Interestingly, in 2005, the top three most reported collection methods represented 76% of all foreign collection attempts reported to the DSS. Quite often, collectors use multiple methods when targeting information.

Information Systems Technology, because of its potential for enhancing the efficiency of command, control, communications, and intelligence, will continue as a priority technology target for many countries.

The steady increase in incidents where foreign entities target modeling and simulation technology over the past several years is also noteworthy and should not be taken lightly. Analysts believe this may be a reflection of the increased number of weapons development programs in many countries as they attempt to emulate U.S. military prowess. The recent shift in collector affiliations from commercial to government-associated and government entities may also be related to the relatively early stages of these weapons development programs. The increase in incidents of attempted direct purchases of controlled items appears to be a corollary development, consistent with the increase of government and government-associated efforts.

The DSS publication details the primary methods of collection used, typical indicators and countermeasures. The message is clear and always the same:

- Educate the workforce about the threat;
- Identify what type of program information is potentially susceptible to exploitation;
- Identify actions or countermeasures each employee should take to effectively deal with the threat;
- Raise the level of security awareness throughout the organization;
- Encourage employees to report suspicious or questionable incidents or events to the Security Office.

The report establishes a very real collection threat against modeling and simulation technology. Your awareness and willingness to deny information to our adversaries can and will certainly mitigate our vulnerability to that threat. Our adversaries prey on complacency and inattention. Security awareness is the key.
In turn, Maj. Gambles has the utmost respect for the Crosby's and the duties that coincide with being a CAO.

"The nature of the duty is difficult; you want to get it right," Maj. Gambles said. "Being a part of this family’s closure is an experience that I will never forget."

A CAO is responsible for meeting with the next-of-kin to explain the recovery and identification process, and to coordinate the burial with military honors on behalf of the Secretary of the Army.

"It’s been a truly wonderful and amazing experience. We sincerely hope that our good fortune in having Herby’s remains returning to American soil will give other families hope that they, too, will receive word of their lost loved one," Wade concluded.

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**HOLIDAYS & EVENTS**

**March 2**
Colors (All Military)

**March 7-9**
AUSA

**March 11**
Daylight Savings Time Begins

**March 13-14**
Army Gaming Technology User’s Conference

**March 17**
Saint Patrick’s Day

**March 21**
Spring Begins

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**Protocol Tip of the Month**

**Being a Gentleman is Not Rocket Science**

Being a gentleman requires a little logic, a bit of forethought, and a great deal of consideration of others. It is not about complicated rules and convoluted instructions. Instead it is about trying to make life easier for other people. It is about honesty and sincerely being a nice guy.

*From the book, How to be a Gentleman by John Bridges*.

*Introduction page is, copy write 1988, Rutledge Hill Press, Nashville, Tenn.*
The HMMWV Egress Assistance Trainer (HEAT) team was recognized as the Program Executive Office for Simulation, Training and Instrumentation’s Team of the Quarter at the Feb. 22 Town Hall meeting. Their accomplishments include the production of the first HEAT for U.S.-based training systems and preparing 23 additional systems for production. Pictured left to right: Jason Graham, Maj. Vernon Myers, Lisa Parker, Mark Schmude, Martin Phillips and Ray Courech; not pictured: Michelle Forehand.


The Program Executive Office for Simulation, Training and Instrumentation (PEO STRI) held their fifth-annual Information Assurance (IA) Day Feb. 21 in Central Florida’s Research Park. The seven-hour event included opening remarks from Col. Kevin Dietrick, deputy program executive officer for STRI, a threat and collection methods presentation from an FBI special agent, and an information session presented by Craig Thornley, PEO STRI’s IA program manager.
David Mize, the Project Director for the Battlefield Effects Simulator (BES), is the Program Executive Office for Simulation, Training and Instrumentation’s (PEO STRI) newest Employee of the Quarter (EOQ). The honor bestowed upon him during the most recent Town Hall meeting credited him for his efforts in successfully releasing the BES in January.

“Mr. Mize is an excellent example of a hard working and dedicated employee,” said Col. James R. Ralph, III, Project Manager for Training Devices (PM TRADE). “He puts the needs of the Soldier and the mission first.”

The BES emulates the flash and bang of a weapon’s discharge and the impact of force-on-target live training. The device consists of three components: the Omega 60 simulator system, the XM34 cartridge and the XM35 cartridge. The Omega 60 simulator system ignites the pyrotechnic cartridges on command, in which the XM34 produces the flash and sound of tank gunfire as the XM35 simulates the impact of a round on an armor tank.

“Mr. Mize’s strong and dynamic leadership led the multimillion dollar BES program through many challenging problems and complex multi-agency issues. Through his Integrated Product Team (IPT) leadership, the program successfully received firing device and pyrotechnic-type classification and completed the staffing of the material release project,” said Bob Wolfinger, deputy product manager for Live Training Systems who nominated Mize for EOQ.

Mize’s hard work will soon be in the hands of our Warfighters, as the program will be fielded to 21 Army installations over the next three years. Additionally, the Marine Corps’ 29 Palms and Navy test agencies have received BES programs that have yielded time efficiencies and a $1 million cost avoidance for the Department of Defense.

“BES has two live-fire charters: one, to replace the obsolete Armor Tank Kill Simulators and two, to support BES for instrumented ranges,” Mize said. “BES is state-of-the-art. The two cartridges, the Hostile Fire (M34) and the Target Hit (M35) are ultra-safe because of their patented spark-gap technology that allows firing from the launcher only.”

Historically, a pyrotechnic type classification and material release process takes 24-months and costs approximately $2 million. Contrarily, Mize’s team executed the associated efforts in 18-months for less than $1 million.

“The successful and fast progress of the BES program demonstrated Mr. Mize’s ability to get a diverse IPT to reach consensus. His leadership skills kept the program moving in a positive direction. He positioned the program for a low-risk transition to fielding these devices.” Wolfinger said.

Mize said he enjoys working at PEO STRI because he can help provide the best training devices to our Soldiers.

“It’s rewarding to receive recognition for hard work,” Mize said about becoming the current EOQ. “It’s an honor to represent PM TRADE, the first Army PM here in Orlando.”

Mize, a retired Marine aviator, served his last duty at the Naval Training Systems Center. After retirement, he worked in industry before joining PEO STRI five years ago. He has a bachelor of science from Georgia Southern University and a master’s degree in science from Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University.

“I really appreciate serving this great nation in such a meaningful way,” Mize said.