

INSIDE ^{PEO} STRI

M A R C H 2 0 1 2

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WORTH REPEATING

“

I think this really shows that we're preparing our Soldiers for 21st century warfare, given the fact that everything is moving toward virtual reality training. Given the fact that most of these Soldiers coming in had gotten that growing up, this [type of training] will mesh perfectly with the Soldier of the 21st century."

— **Kevin Doran**, deputy chief of staff for Rep. Lynn A. Westmoreland of Georgia's 3rd District, adequately impressed after learning about the many aspects of infantry and armor training of Soldiers at the Joint Maneuver Center of Excellence, Fort Benning, Ga., March 14-16, 2012.



U.S. Army Photo/Doug Schaub

Col. Mike Flanagan of PM TRADE knighted retired Staff Sgt. Russ Marek, a local Wounded Warrior, into the Order of St. George during a March 2 ceremony in Warfighters Park.

Miracle Soldier Receives Long Overdue Award from a STRI COL

By Kristen A. McCullough, PEO STRI Public Affairs Officer

During Dr. Jim Blake's Army Ball remarks last year, he emphatically said, "I'm beyond blessed to come to work every day to a place where the word hero truly means something."

That statement became ever so clear in a ceremony March 2 where retired Staff Sgt. Russ Marek of Viera, Fla., was awarded the Order of St. George Silver Medallion by Col. Mike Flanagan of PM TRADE for his heroic actions during an IED explosion that literally blew his Abrams tank in half.

"Somehow, I find strength to meet my everyday trials. I've never carved my name on

marble columns or plaques for my glory. Heroes build a legacy that springs from faithful service to our nation," Marek said after being knighted into the Order of St. George, an honor bestowed on America's top tankers, during a ceremony in Warfighters Park.

Surrounded by more than 100 family members, friends, PEO STRI employees and a handful of other Order of St. George medallion recipients, Marek said, "Thanks for this honor. This prestigious award will add to my accomplishments of service in the U.S. Army and of my future and everyday life."

Marek served two tours in

Iraq. During the first rotation, he served as the tank gunner. He engaged 14 enemy tanks and won every battle. For those actions, he was awarded the Combat Action Badge and a Bronze Star.

During his second tour of duty, Marek was critically injured Sept. 16, 2005 when, while manning his tank's .50 caliber machine gun, a roadside bomb detonated under his Abrams tank.

Marek sustained life-threatening injuries. He lost his right leg and right arm. He suffered a severe closed-head brain injury. He was burned on

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RETURNING PM CATT SOLDIER SHARES HIS AFGHANISTAN EXPERIENCES

By Rick Gregory, APEO Business Operations Support Staff

With more than 50 million people from around the world gleefully spending their hard-earned money to come to Orlando for sun and fun, why in the world would anyone voluntarily leave the area to go to a dangerous, war-torn country?

Lt. Col. Joe Lisella, previously a member of PM CATT who last month completed a six-month rotation in Afghanistan, has a simple, patriotic answer.

“Many of my peers have served multiple tours in Afghanistan,” he explained. “I felt it was my duty to volunteer for an assignment there.”

He said that he’s not only glad he went, but added that it provided him a better understanding of how important the work of PEO STRI is to the mission of the U.S. military in providing assistance to the Afghanistan government.

During his tour, he was a contracting officer’s representative for many of the Warfighter FOCUS training efforts that PEO STRI has on contract supporting the NATO Training Mission in Afghanistan (NTM-A). His position provided him the opportunity to work and become friends with not only Afghans, but nationalities from all over the world

“I think most of the PEO STRI team in Orlando would be surprised at the direct positive impact we have on training the Afghan National Army (ANA) and Afghan National Police (ANP) forces,” he said. “We are responsible for providing contract instructors to address some of the key training shortfalls in the ANA and ANP including logistics, counter-improvised explosive devices, pilot training and special operations forces to name a few. Every one of our training efforts there answered a specific need.”

He spoke highly of the PEO STRI contractors in Afghanistan who are ensuring those training needs are met. “They are assigned throughout the country, working every day in hands-on situations with Afghan forces, teaching and coaching them to do their jobs,” he said. “About 90 percent of them are either retired military or have prior military service. All are patriots!”

Lisella said the six month tour went by quickly because of the rapid pace of his work and the fact that he never knew what the next day held in store for him.

“Every day presented me with new problems to solve, new places to go and new folks to meet,” he said. “Combine this with the unpredictability of the Afghan weather and you never knew for

sure what the next day might hold. The enemy gets a vote in these situations too.”

He said working in a country where the dress code included wearing a sidearm, it was important that information was quickly disseminated if a volatile situation occurred that put lives in danger.

“The NTM-A made very effective use of information technology resources to ensure all members of the command were kept informed. If the threat atmosphere changed, everyone would be notified within a matter of minutes,” he said.

“That proved to be true when the Koran incident went down, and I have no doubt that the capability to quickly get the word out helped protect the U.S. and allied forces,” Lisella said, referencing the riots that broke out when U.S. troops inadvertently burned Muslim holy books in Afghanistan last month.

Besides praising the PEO STRI contractors, he holds in high esteem the Afghans who he worked with on a daily basis.

“I shared an office with two Afghans,” he said. “Both were educated and fluent in English, which gave us an opportunity to talk about the Koran incident. I believe both of them were upset about it, but were level-headed enough to realize it was a result of an unfortunate series of events that led to the burning and not a deliberate act on the part of the personnel involved.”

He said his Afghan counterparts also had a different take than what’s being reported by the news media on why the riots broke out.

“They expressed their thoughts that the majority of the protests were staged, inflamed by rhetoric, probably unnecessary and influenced by the enemy,” he explained. “Decent, hard-working Afghans like them were not the ones protesting.”

He said the enemy believes that by driving a wedge between the relationships of the American and Afghan forces, as well as the Afghan government and people, they would be victorious.

“They attempted to incite rioting as a response to the Koran burning, but on a large scale, they failed as the riots significantly declined in numbers after a few days,” Lisella said. “In fact, very few U.S. or coalition forces were in direct engagement with the rioters. The Afghan security



U.S. Army Photo

Lt. Col. Joe Lisella gives a briefing to a group of Afghanistan National Army officers.



U.S. Army Photo

A group of Afghanistan National Army soldiers undergo marksmanship training.

forces that we’ve trained were out front on this one and largely effective.”

Now that his six-month tour is over, he has some advice for anyone preparing for deployment.

“First, make sure your family is ready. Talk about expectations and keep the communications going throughout the tour,” he said. “I am lucky to be married to a strong, organized and independent woman. She did a great job of holding down the fort at home while I was gone and that made my tour easier.”

He also recommends that those headed to Afghanistan take a camera, lots of cold weather gear and engage in conversation with as many people as possible during their tours.

“There were more than 30 NATO countries participating in our mission. All of them come from a different background, but they all share our goals of freedom and justice for the people of Afghanistan.”

Upon his return, Lisella will assume duties as the deputy to the director of the Army Research Laboratory’s Simulation and Training Technology Center under the Research Development and Engineering Command.

STRI Filling Training Void in Fire Support Systems

By Rick Gregory, APEO Business Operations Support Staff

PEO STRI is on the verge of causing a reprint of an important Army field manual. It specifically points out a worrisome deficiency in mortar training for Soldiers.

FM 3-22.90, Appendix A, states, "Mortars suffer from not having a training device such as MILES (Multiple Integrated Laser Engagement System) to simulate the terminal effects of mortar rounds. As a result, maneuver units tend to under-employ their supporting mortars."

Filling the training void is critical when Soldiers manning those indirect fire weapons are deployed in combat. According to Staff Sgt. Jose Aguilar, a senior instructor at the Indirect Fire Infantryman Advanced Leader Course, using mortars in battle is critical; noting that in one deployment to Afghanistan his company fired more than 12,000 mortar rounds.

In an article published in Fort Benning, Ga.'s post newspaper, The Bayonet, Aguilar said, "Right now in Afghanistan, mortars are one of the most essential elements hands down. In my unit, we would not send out a patrol without a 60 millimeter mortar. Never!"

A team from PM TRADE's Product Manager for Live Training Systems (PM LTS) is in the testing stage of fielding a training device that will fill the training need cited in the FM. Called OneTESS (One Tactical Engagement Simulation System), the device will provide the capability of bringing indirect fire weapons (such as mortars and artillery), the Fire Direction Center (FDC) and the forward observer (FO) together in force-on-force live training exercises.

"In today's training environment, [trainees'] options are limited to training with expensive live rounds or dry fire," Lt. Col. Scott Tufts, product manager for LTS, said. "In dry fire you have no idea where the rounds would go and how to adjust the fire."

OneTESS will first focus on fielding a device to train dismounted mortar Soldiers followed by artillery training devices. The existing MILES will continue to provide training for Soldiers employing direct fire during training exercises, but the system will also integrate with OneTESS.

Along with MILES, OneTESS will also require an instrumentation system such as the Homestation Instrumentation System (HITS), another PM TRADE product.

Using the M224, M252 and M120 mortar systems as an example, Tufts explained how OneTESS will be employed in the training environment.

"We are developing devices that can be attached to the mortar systems that will read settings and changes to the azimuth to provide the distance information while the other reads the trajectory," he said. "The mortar crew can then load into the tube a simulated mortar round. The simulated mortar round allows the crew to set the ammunition type, fuse charges, and arm the round prior to hanging the round into the tube. This lets them go through the entire training process of setting up the mortar system on the ground and then aiming, arming, loading and firing it."

He said once the round is inserted, it sets off a chain of events.

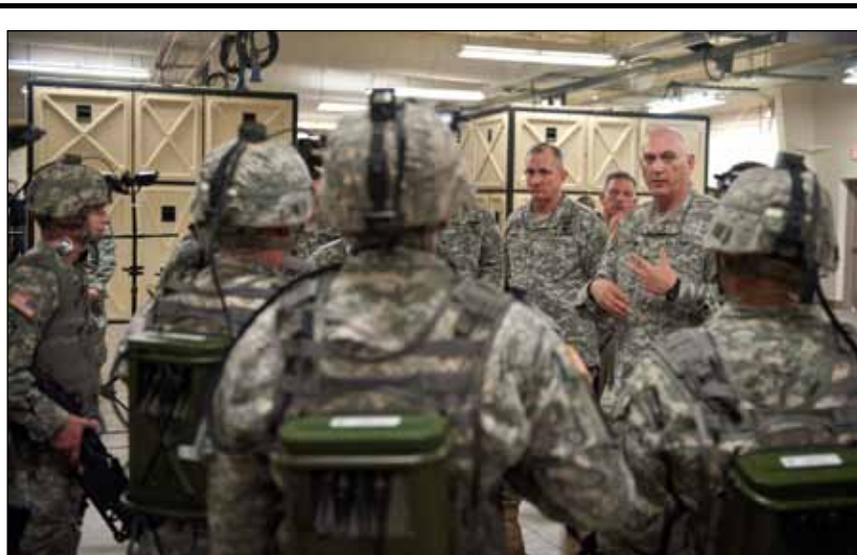
"The simulated round doesn't actually fire downrange, but it sends an 'electronic bullet', so to speak,

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U.S. Army Photo

A Soldier drops a simulated mortar round into the tube while testing the One Tactical Engagement Simulation System (OneTESS).



U.S. Army Photo/ Staff Sgt. Teddy Wade

GEN. ODIERNO TRIES OUT PEO STRI'S SQUAD-LEVEL TRAINER

Chief of Staff of the Army Gen. Ray Odierno visited the Clarke Simulation Center on Fort Benning, Ga., March 9 where he tested out the newly unveiled Dismounted Soldier Training System (DSTS). Soldiers from the Ranger Training Brigade demonstrated a short attack and clear scenario on the trainer, and then Odierno suited up in the equipment and tried out the trainer himself. When the general asked the Soldiers for their feedback on the simulator, they replied, "DSTS would not replace live fire, but it would certainly enhance it." The simulator—which virtually transports up to nine Soldiers into a geospecific battlefield alive with the sights and sounds of combat—represents the Army's first standardized method of training at the squad level.

PEO STRI's Acquisition Center Group Convenes for Career Advancement

By Kimberly A. Tedeschi and Mike Yilmaz, PEO STRI Acquisition Center Staff

A group of 11 contracting professionals in PEO STRI's Acquisition Center will have spent one lunch break per week over the past 18 weeks enhancing their professional development. These individuals, who are already DAWIA Level III certified in contracting, are taking their expertise to the next level.

The group represents the Acquisition Center's first study group preparing to take the exam that, if passed, designates them as a National Contract Management Association's (NCMA) Certified Federal Contracts Manager. The certification validates a contracting professional's education, training, experience and knowledge of the FAR, and members of PEO STRI's Acquisition Center attest that this professional designation is highly respected within Department of Defense and throughout industry.

Each week, one of the 11 group members leads the group's lesson on a particular section of the FAR, including creating and grading a mock exam and facilitating the group discussion.

"Their commitment to this process is commendable," said Joe Giunta, Jr., the director of the Acquisition Center, who endorses his employees' pursuit of the designation.

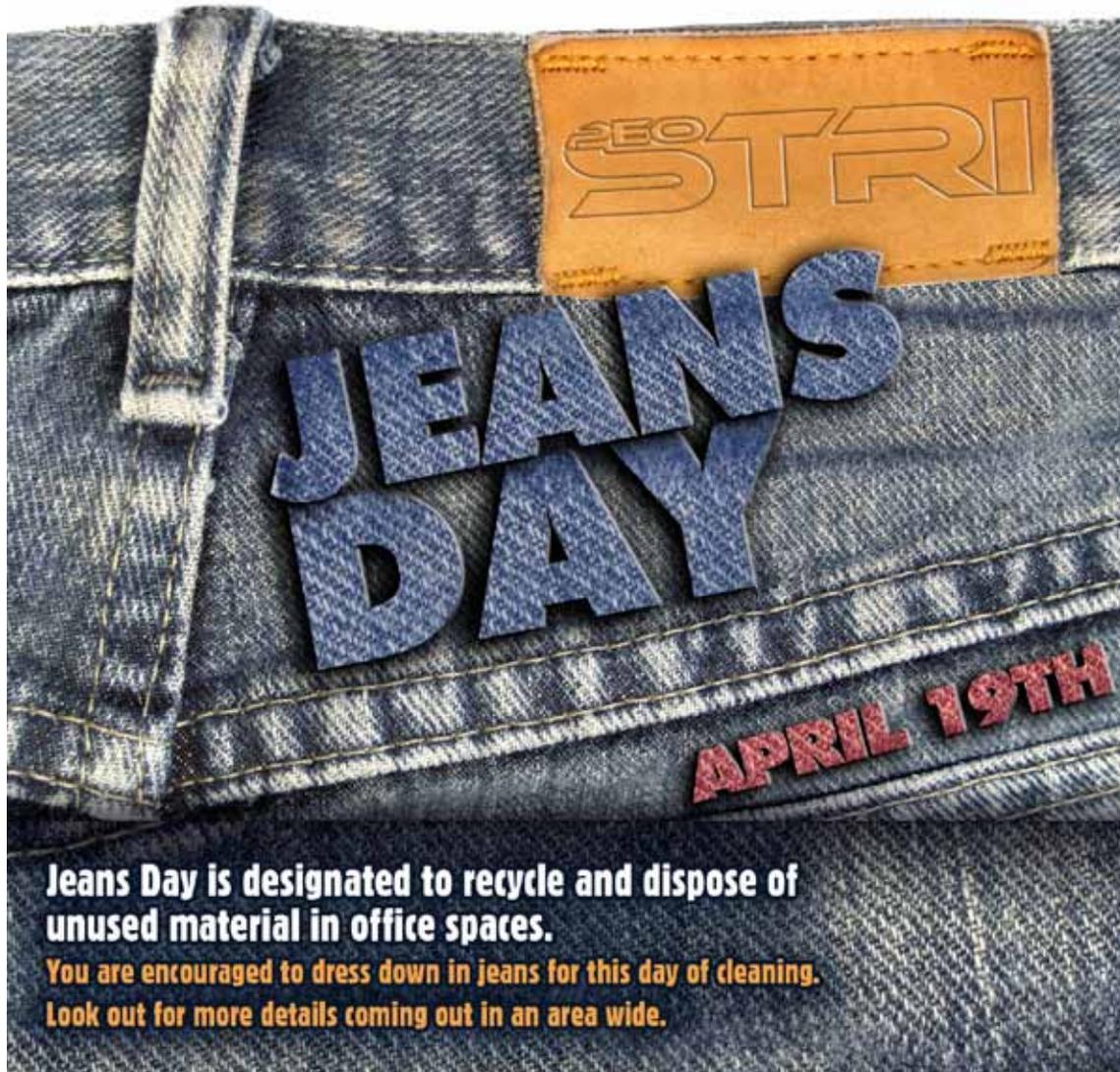
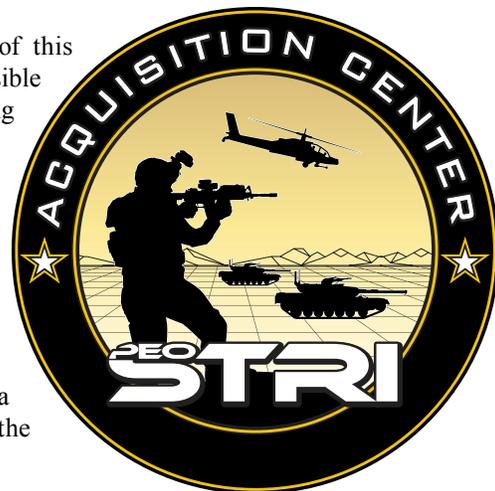
Giunta, a well-known proponent of employee and professional development across PEO STRI, supports his staff's participation in the NCMA, which according to their website, "provides contract professionals in the private and public sectors, buying and selling worlds, the knowledge and connections

that offer lifetime career management."

The association has more than 115 chapters across the United States and internationally, which comprises 19,500 members demographically partitioned as 65 percent industry, 30 percent federal employees and 5 percent academia. Also, NCMA has affiliations with all the federal agencies and more than 2,000 companies.

"Attaining the CFCM professional designation is worth

the effort, and none of this would have been possible without the strong leadership of the PEO STRI Acquisition Center and its' management who not only endorsed it, but also provided the many resources needed to make this a success," Gloria Bailey, a member of the study group, said.



that sends a message to the instrumentation system,” he explained. “It then adjudicates the information it receives and sends the message to the target, which is equipped with the MILES to determine the hits, the kills and the wounded. The targets can be just about anything, including troops in the open and vehicles.”

The FO, who calls in the location and type of target to the FDC, will also have a new training device once OneTESS is fielded.

“During training, the forward observer will be provided a tablet, similar to an iPad, that gives him a three-dimensional view of the simulated battlefield so he can see where the rounds are hitting. He can adjust fire based on where he

sees the rounds impact in relation to the target,” Tufts explained. “It’s called augmented reality. Today, there is no way to know where a simulated round is hitting. This will be the first time that has ever happened in a force-on-force environment.”

He added that besides providing this type of training for the first time, it will also save money.

“Once this gets into the field, it will save quite a bit of money because they won’t have to practice with live rounds,” he said. “It will also sharpen their skills to increase their hits when actually using live rounds.”

Tufts said OneTESS is in the testing phase now with plans to field the system in 2014.



U.S. Army Photo

The Forward Observer (FO) Tablet provides the FO a look at where the simulated round would have hit.

PM ITTS' TARGETS PROGRAM WINS DOD VALUE ENGINEERING ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

By Kristen A. McCullough, PEO STRI Public Affairs Officer

The Aerial Target Flight Services program under PM ITTS won the 2011 Department of Defense Value Engineering Achievement Award for being the most outstanding program/project of the year.

The U.S. Air Force needed to properly dispose of their MQM-107 assets upon acquiring a new weapon system. The security classification of these uniquely configured targets would have made the final disposition of these systems a costly and resource-intensive process.

Instead, PEO STRI's aerial targets team developed a plan to convert the Air Force's old assets into something that would meet the Army's Test and Evaluation requirements, which eliminated the need to destroy the targets and allowed the Army to reconfigure them for future use.

The transfer of assets added 17 MQM-107 aircraft—valued at more than \$8.24 million—along with hundred of spare parts, into

its fleet of aerial targets. The innovative approach yielded more than \$10.4 million in cost avoidance for the Army in fiscal year 2012, and is projected to have saved the Air Force an estimated \$933,000.

Furthermore, the current

attrition rate of the MQM-107 target drone fleet depletes from the inventory at a rate of 10 targets per year, resulting in a total depletion of the fleet over the next several years. Without this value engineering project, the Army would have experienced a

diminished training capability or incurred substantial expenses to replenish the fleet.

Details on the Value Engineering Award ceremony, to include date, time and location, have not yet been finalized, but typically the ceremony is hosted in June.



U.S. Air Force Photo

The Beechcraft MQM-107 Streaker on display in the Research and Development Gallery at the National Museum of the U.S. Air Force.

URBANSIM TEACHES COMMANDERS HOW TO SUCCESSFULLY CONDUCT 'ARMED SOCIAL WORK'

By Rick Gregory, APEO Business Operations Support Staff

Imagine the mayor and staff of any major city in the United States trying to address routine social and political issues while being shot at. Probably not too many people would run for that office.

When referring to U.S. military leaders faced with that kind of challenge in places like Iraq and Afghanistan, David Kilcullen, a counterinsurgency expert, calls it "armed social work."

After the major offensive and defensive operations were over in Iraq and Afghanistan, commanders were suddenly thrust into the role of running and supporting the local governments. Their role was to ensure the basic social needs such as transportation, schools, law enforcement, utilities, food supplies and other necessities were met while daily facing determined insurgents who were trying to disrupt their abilities to do just that.

To train for the complexities of such a role, PM CATT's Games for Training program fields a computer-based learning module loosely built around the popular SimCity consumer game where players build and design a city, complete with a functioning infrastructure.

In the militarized version of that game, UrbanSim provides commanders the simulated control of a battalion as they attempt to maintain stability, fight insurgency, reconstruct the civilian infrastructure and prepare for transition.

Leslie Dubow, PEO STRI's product manager for gaming technologies, said UrbanSim was first fielded with the Games for Training software in December 2010.

"We provide a copy of the

software on every hardware set we have fielded," she said. "It is also available for download by members of any service on the MilGaming website and we have had requests from coalition partners. We have 90-plus downloads so far on MilGaming and have fielded 52 copies."

Anyone with a Department of Defense Common Access Card (CAC) can access the website at <https://milgaming.army.mil>.

Additionally, she said, the Center for Army Leadership at the United States Army Combined Arms Center at Fort Leavenworth, Kan., uses UrbanSim in their program of instruction for new commanders.

The five key objectives of UrbanSim are to increase situational awareness for commanders; balance their actions in both lethal and non-lethal activities; show how the actions they take can cause effects further down the line; emphasize the doctrine of "clear" (remove or separate insurgents from the area), "hold" (re-establish host nation government presence) and "build" (gain support and protect the population); and to understand progress assessment.

In an article published by the American Forces Press Service, Andrew Gordon, a research associate professor at the University of Southern California's Institute for Creative Technologies, spoke about the development of UrbanSim in which the institute was a major player.

"One of the innovative things about UrbanSim is it has this story-driven component where we're taking the real-world experiences of commanders from places like Iraq and Afghanistan and trying to find innovative



U.S. Army Photo

A computer screen shot of the UrbanSim virtual training application shows the commander the dispersion of religious sectors within a city.



U.S. Army Photo

Soldiers analyze an operational exercise while working with the UrbanSim virtual training application.

ways of moving those real-life experiences directly into the simulation environment," he said.

Students, normally battalion-level commanders, undergo the training in three phases: the primer lessons, the practice environment and the after action review.

The primer lessons include video interviews with former commanders who served in both Iraq and Afghanistan. Taking approximately two hours to complete the self-

paced instruction, the topics of the tutorials include getting locals to embrace the cause, intelligence gathering methods, social networks, executing a counterinsurgency operation and others.

Once completing the primer portion, commanders move on to executing their mission to achieve the stated end results. The practice environment is rich with realism with situations based on actual events and the integration of a program called

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PEO STRI'S TENTH ANNUAL ORGANIZATION DAY



APRIL 13, 2012 ★ 8 A.M. - 3 P.M.

Red Bug Lake Park

\$5 TICKETS ON SALE NOW!
*after March 31 price is \$7



Gil Ramos, CATT
Cindy Langfeldt, ConSim
Kathy Logan, TRADE
Tracy Allen, ACQ CTR
Beth Hinds, ITTS

Pat Bittikofer, Field OPS
"Eddie" Brewer, APEO BO
Lucia Mezzancello, APEO CS
Cathy Beauvais, APEO PS
Troy Ryan, CIO

Ticket SALES End April 6!

★ **TEAM BUILDING EVENTS**

Basketball	Extreme Engineering	Texas Hold 'Em
Bingo	Golf Chip	Volleyball
Chili Competition	Horseshoes	Water Relay
Culinary Arts Bake-off	Professional Relay	TBA - Surprise Event
Dominos	Softball	
Egg Toss	STRI-IDOL	

NO CHILDREN • NO PETS • EMPLOYEES ONLY

Attendance is required for all PEO STRI military, civilian employees.



ARMY/AIR FORCE BASKETBALL TEAM GOES ROLLING ALONG

By Gina Guerzon, APEO Business Operations Support Staff

March Madness arrived early. The Army/Air Force team defeated the Navy/Marines team 52-35 during the annual SHAPE basketball challenge March 8 at the UCF Educational Complex courts.

Both teams came out of the jump ball with high intensity scoring on almost every possession with a combination of fast breaks, aggressive post play, mid-range jumpers and three pointers. For the first eight minutes into the game, there were seven different lead changes between the two teams with the Army/Air Force team falling behind the Navy/Marine Corps 13-18 at about the 10 minute mark.

Coach and player Tony Tolbert attributed this deficit to the high number of Army/Air

Force turnovers, in which Tolbert quickly motioned to the official for a time out to address the team's turnover issues.

After the time out, the Army/Air Force team significantly reduced their turnovers to end the half up 24-20 and to go on to win the game 52-35. This victory makes it the sixth consecutive year that the Army/Air Force team has defeated the Navy/Marines.

Leading scorers for the Army/Air Force team were Phil Davis, Scott Welcheck, Robert Johnson and Tolbert.

In addition to the victory, the Army/Air Force team also made history with the inclusion of the first female player, Tiffany Smith, to their roster. "She held her own on defense against the Navy/Marines team," Tolbert said.



U.S. Army Photo/Doug Schaub

The Army/Air Force basketball team defeats the Navy/Marines team for the sixth consecutive year, winning 52-35. Team members and managers (from left to right) are Ken Wheeler, Brian Serra, Scott Welcheck, Tiffany Smith, Robert Johnson, Herbert McDuffie, Phil Davis, Coach Tony Tolbert, Jason Graham, Shi Deng and Robert Reyenga.



U.S. Army PEO STRI Photo/Doug Schaub

U.S. SENATOR VISITS TEAM ORLANDO

Sen. Bill Nelson, a long-time advocate for the modeling and simulation industry in Central Florida, visits Team Orlando—a coalition of military, industry and academic partners—March 5. Rob Reyenga, SES, deputy program executive officer, represented PEO STRI during the visit. Nelson received an update on what Team Orlando has become since he supported the movement in 1984 to relocate the M&S commands to Research Park in Orlando, Fla. The senator also received a detailed overview on the importance of simulated training in this era of constrained budgets.

20 percent of his body. His left ear and left thumb were also lost from the explosion.

After spending 13 months in a coma and receiving treatment in five hospitals, Marek returned home to Brevard County, Fla., and retired from the Army. Today, he lives unassisted while he continues his therapy and is determined to better his rehabilitation.

Flanagan met the medically retired Soldier at the Army Ball last year.

“He pointed to the medal on my chest and said, ‘What’s that medal?’” Flanagan reminisced. Flanagan said he could hardly believe that a fellow tanker, especially one of such heroic magnitude, was not aware of this medal.

Soon after the ball, Flanagan nominated Marek to be knighted into the Order of St. George.

Flanagan said that the Army made significant safety

improvements to the tank in response to Marek’s incident. Ironically, Flanagan was serving as PM Abrams and was largely responsible for the Tank Urban Survivability Kit, which marks the most critical modification effort in the history of the Abrams program, providing improvements that maximize the operational usability of the vehicle in the Southwest Asia battlefields.

“Because of the modifications, we made the tank safer and saved lives,” Flanagan said. “The fact that Staff Sgt. Marek walked away from the incident was a miracle. If you had seen the pictures, you wouldn’t have believed anyone could have survived.”

The people of PEO STRI should be proud to know they work with heroes, for heroes. But on March 2, PEO STRI was graced by nothing short of a walking miracle.



U.S. Army Photo/Doug Schaub

Staff Sgt. Russ Marek, who was severely wounded in Iraq in 2005, received the Order of St. George Silver Medallion after being nominated for the award by Col. Mike Flanagan of PM TRADE.

Mr. Matthew J. Fair

President of the Sunshine Chapter,
Association of the United States Army

in conjunction with

Dr. James T. Blake

Program Executive Officer for
Simulation, Training and Instrumentation

request the pleasure of your company at the

237TH

ARMY BIRTHDAY

Ball

AUSA Sunshine Chapter

Saturday, the Sixteenth of June 2012
at five-thirty o'clock

Renaissance Orlando at SeaWorld
Convention Center, Oceans Ballroom
6677 Sea Harbor Drive, Orlando, FL

Black Tie or Military Equivalent

To RSVP and for more information
visit www.ausea-sunshine.org

CITIZEN STRI

"Daylight Savings Time began March 11. What are you doing with the extra hour of daylight when you get off work?"



"Now, I can meet up with friends after work and maybe get in a few hours of jet skiing on the lake before sunset."

- **John Andino, BOO**



"I'm using that extra hour of sunshine to do yard work, exercise and just be outside."

- **George Burmester, BOO**



"I have extra time after work to grill out at the pool!"

- **Phil Davis, Acq. Center**



"I plan to use the extra daylight to take the dog for a longer walk and (hopefully!) fit in an outdoor workout."

- **Megan Jeffers, BOO**



"The extra daylight gives me an opportunity to complete a full day of work and get in a much needed run before sunset. The mixture of the two is absolutely perfect!"

- **Lisa Taylor, BOO**

Want your opinion heard? Answer April's Question! The question is open to the entire workforce. *As the old adage goes, "April showers bring May flowers." What's your favorite thing to do on a rainy day?* Send your response to Kristen.McCullough@us.army.mil and put Citizen STRI in the subject line.

URBANSIM: *continued from page 6*

PsychSim that populates the student's city with a diverse set of social scenarios.

With PsychSim used to simulate the population, instructors can program the UrbanSim practice environment to use a variety of individuals or groups who have distinct goals and relationships with other individuals or groups. They could include a mayor with political ambitions, insurgents who are trying to cause disruptions at every turn by detonating improvised explosive devices, locals who are friendly to the cause, locals who are aligned with the insurgents, criminal gangs, religious groups and others.

The students can be challenged with real-world situations such as insurgents killing groups of police recruits, the bombing of a much-needed electrical grid, or battles breaking out between two religious groups with differing ideologies. The students then learn the cause and effect of the decisions they made in each scenario they faced.

Midway through the exercise, instructors call an administrative halt so the student can provide the brigade commander (a role played by the instructor) a battle update briefing. Then, once the exercise is completed, they go into the third phase where they have an after action review with the instructor. This provides the instructor and player the opportunity to tie game actions with learning objectives and exercise results.

In a paper submitted to the Interservice/Industry Training, Simulation, and Education Conference (I/ITSEC) 2010, the authors representing the U.S. Army Research, Development, and Engineering Command and the University of Southern California's Institute for Creative Technologies wrote about the results of a survey taken by Soldiers who trained on UrbanSim. The Soldiers were from two operational battalions preparing for deployment. One battalion was from Fort Hood, Texas, while the other was a National Guard battalion.

After completing the training, the survey results showed that 96 percent of those Soldiers agreed or strongly agreed with positive statements regarding UrbanSim's use as a training tool for counterinsurgency operations.

Dubow said one of her favorite comments about UrbanSim came from a U.S. Marine who recently returned from a counterinsurgency mission in Afghanistan.

"After seeing UrbanSim, he said he wished he would have had it before he deployed to Afghanistan," she said. "He said they conducted some of the same missions as those simulated in the training tool."

Thanks to UrbanSim, commanders now have another opportunity to do a dress rehearsal for the mission they face before deploying.

TEAM ORLANDO IN PHOTOS



U.S. Army Photo/Doug Schaub

Dr. Jim Blake, along with PM ITTS, hosted Maj. Gen. Genaro Dellarocco, commanding general of the United States Army Test and Evaluation Command, and a team of his advisors including Brian Simmons (right), Mar. 6 for a test integration review.



U.S. Army Photo/Doug Schaub

Col. Mike Flanagan participated Feb. 29 in the retirement ceremony of Col. Craig Langhauser, director of the U.S. Army's Simulation and Training Technology Center.



U.S. Army Photo/Doug Schaub

Col. (Promotable) Todd McCaffery, the director of training at the Office of the Chief of Staff, G3/5/7, visited PEO STRI Feb. 29 to discuss high-level training priorities across the organization.

HOLIDAYS Events

- APRIL 8.....Easter
- APRIL 13.....Org Day
- APRIL 17.....DIL Open House
- APRIL 19.....Jeans Day
- APRIL 25.....Administrative Professionals Day
- APRIL 26.....Daughters & Sons to Work Day

INSIDE ^{PEO}STR^I

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TEAM ORLANDO'S MILITARY SERVICES PRESENT

Take Our DAUGHTERS & SONS to WORK day

April 26, 2012

//Parents, grandparents and guardians are invited to bring their children between the ages of 8 and 18 to a day filled with interactive and stimulating events centered around MODELING, SIMULATION and TRAINING.

DETAILS ON THE EVENT, INCLUDING THE RELEASE FORM AND THE DAY'S AGENDA, WILL BE DISTRIBUTED VIA E-MAIL. SPECIFIC DETAILS CAN BE ADDRESSED BY EACH SERVICES' EVENT LEAD.

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