



INSIDE ^{PEO} STRI

M A R C H 2 0 0 9

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WORTH REPEATING

“You’ll find our Army a place where you’ll be challenged, a place of unlimited opportunities, and a place where you can truly make a difference for our nation.”

— Gen. Ann E. Dunwoody, commander, U.S. Army Materiel Command

VOLUME IX | ISSUE I



U.S. Army Photo/Norbert Granchi

The Mine Resistant Ambush Protected (MRAP) family of armored fighting vehicles was designed to increase the survivability of troops struck by improvised explosive device attacks and ambushes. The MRAP vehicle pictured above was located at Firebase Ripley in the southern region of Afghanistan in 2008.

Army Fields New Vehicles, STRI Delivers New Training

By Kristen Dooley McCullough, U.S. Army Public Affairs Officer

As the Mine Resistant Ambush Protected (MRAP) family of fighting vehicles became the highest-sought mode of transportation in the combat zone, PEO STRI quickly responded to meet the Army’s training needs. In record time, the Project Manager for Combined Arms Tactical Trainers delivered both driver and egress trainers to prepare Soldiers for the new vehicle they would be operating in the theater of combat operations.

The Common Driver Trainer MRAP variant, “trains critical driver tasks in a virtual simulator that are too dangerous or infre-

quently trained in the live training environment,” said Lt. Col. Charlie Stein, product manager for ground combat tactical trainers.

Some of the dangerous situations that Soldiers are currently encountering in theater that this trainer takes into consideration are bad driving conditions like dilapidated roads and weak bridges, combat conditions like roadside bombs or ambushes, and mere driver error.

While the training mission is relatively the same for all the Soldiers using the simulation, the type of vehicle they will be operating in the war zone could very

well vary as there are a handful of different MRAP vehicles in Iraq and Afghanistan.

As a result, PEO STRI is fielding five types of MRAP vehicles: a mine-resistant light armored vehicle (RG-33L), a multipurpose mine-protected vehicle (RG-31), an armored fighting vehicle (MaxxPro), an armored vehicle with a V-hull design based on the Family of Medium Tactical Vehicles (Caiman), and the Marines’ armored fighting vehicle (Cougar). A total of 20 driver trainers will be delivered to Army sites around the globe in 2009.

“With the driver trainer, we are
Continued on page 10

STOC II POSITIONS PEO STRI TO BETTER ENABLE SOLDIERS

By Kristen Dooley McCullough, PEO STRI Public Affairs Officer

PEO STRI granted 142 awards to more than 120 companies for the second STRI Omnibus Contract, known as STOC II, early this year. STOC II, valued at \$17.5 billion over the next 10 years, serves as an efficient contracting vehicle in order to quickly get simulation and training products and services into the hands of U.S. and coalition service members.

“STOC II is PEO STRI’s newest contract vehicle providing continued responsiveness to the Warfighter,” noted John Daniele, deputy customer support executive for PEO STRI. “It is positioned and structured to meet the demands of the current and future operating environments with relevant and responsive solutions for the nation.”

Companies competing in STOC II were evaluated in two categories: the Full and Open Lot and the Partial Small Business Set Aside Lot. Small companies competing in the Full and Open Lot also had the opportunity to compete in the Partial Small Business Set-Aside Lot, and vice-versa. Two lots were established in order to enhance PEO STRI’s ability to achieve its small business goals.

In response to the STOC II Request for Proposal, PEO STRI evaluated 158 compliant proposals in which 127 proposals (60 large companies and 67 small companies) were entertained in the Full

and Open Lot, and 98 proposals were assessed in the Partial Small Business Set-Aside Lot.

The proposals were evaluated based on four core factors detailed in the Request for Proposal: past performance, management, small business participation plan (applicable only to the large companies in the Full and Open Lot) and cost/price.

“The overall purpose of STOC II is to have highly-qualified contractors on-hand to rapidly satisfy the needs of our nation’s Warfighters,” explained Brian Murphy, the PEO STRI contracting officer responsible for STOC II.

Existing STOC I contracts—which were awarded in four different categories: Live, Virtual, Constructive and Test-Instrumentation—remain a viable solution during the transition period until each respective domain expires. The first domain, Test-Instrumentation, expired late February, 2009. The remaining domains expire March 2009.

“Leveraging experience with the STOC I contract, STOC II accommodates emerging requirements, technologies and innovation via access to an extensive array of industry and academia capabilities,” Daniele said.

Companies outside of STOC II will still be able to do business with PEO STRI. Murphy advised, “STOC II is just one tool in a contracting officer’s toolkit.” ■

Giunta Named Head of Acquisition Center

By Kristen Dooley McCullough, PEO STRI Public Affairs Officer

PEO STRI appointed Joe Giunta the Principal Assistant Responsible for Contracting (PARC) March 2009. As the PARC, he is responsible for overseeing and leading the Acquisition Center, which consists of a group of 130 contracting professionals who execute a multibillion dollar portfolio.

In his previous position, Giunta served as PEO STRI’s strategic integrator where he provided expertise on the organization’s outreach policies and procedures. He was responsible for developing and executing outreach strategies that established partnerships and an increased awareness and knowledge of the PEO product portfolio. Additionally, he led the integration activities across the PEO’s non-system and system Training Aids, Devices and Simulation Systems programs in support of the Army Training Support System.

In his last military assignment, Giunta was the product manager for Ground Combat Tactical Trainers within PEO STRI.

Throughout his distinguished military career, Giunta served in a variety of contracting positions. He was the deputy director for acquisition and contracting at the Natick Research, Development and Engineering Center in Massachusetts.

He later served as the pro-



curement officer and chief of the Integration and Support Division at the Battle Lab Integration, Technology, and Concepts Directorate within the Training and Doctrine Command at Fort Monroe, Va.

Additionally, Giunta was previously assigned as the director of contracting for the Army Central Command in Kuwait.

He is a member of the Army Acquisition Corps and holds Level III Certifications in both contracting and program management.

His formal education includes a bachelor’s degree in political science from Catawba College, in Salisbury, N.C., and a master’s degree in public administration from Framingham State College in Massachusetts.

His civilian and military education includes the Armor Officer Basic and Advanced Courses, Battalion Motor Officer Course, Mortar Platoon Leaders Course, Combined Arms Service Staff School, the Army Command and General Staff College and the Defense Systems Management College, Advanced Program Managers Course. ■



PM ITTS' Target Management Office Recognized for their Work in Virtual Targets

By Jed Sheehan, PM ITTS Targets Management Office

The Project Manager for Instrumentation, Targets and Threat Simulators' Targets Management Office, based out of Huntsville, Ala., was recently recognized at the 2009 Modeling and Simulation Leadership Summit for the work being done in their Virtual Targets Center.

The summit was held in conjunction with the Congressional Modeling and Simulation Caucus, in Norfolk, Va. During the caucus, Dr. Mikel D. Petty, director for the University of Alabama in Huntsville's Center for Modeling, Simulation, and Analysis, represented the Alabama Modeling and Simulation Council.

Petty served as a panelist during the event and discussed the southeast and south-central regional initiatives in modeling and simulation. Specifically, he addressed technology, workforce development, industrial development, organizational relation, business practices and economic impact.

Petty also highlighted virtual targets during his presentation because they represent an example of high-technology deriving from the southeast and south-central area of the U.S.

Much of Petty's presentation derived from an Alabama Modeling and Simulation Council information paper. The paper specifically cites the importance of the Virtual Targets Center:

"Imaginative forms of business practice are emerging within the [modeling and simulation] community of practice wherein cooperation among industry, government and academia are significantly facilitated. For instance, new and enhanced weapon systems are often tested with M&S,

using digital virtual models of the targets they are intended to engage. Those target models must be detailed, accurate, and authoritative if the testing that uses them is to be reliable. The U.S. Army is developing a library of extremely detailed, highly accurate, and carefully validated virtual target models that faithfully represent those targets in the infrared, radio frequency, and visual spectrums and are freely available to qualified users via an online accessible repository. Reciprocally, model contributions can be contributed by industry or academic organizations and practitioners to enrich the collective information resource. This activity illustrates the imaginative business practices that enable cooperation among government, industry, and academia to the advantage of all."

The Virtual Targets Center, which is located in the Huntsville, Ala., area at Redstone Arsenal, fosters the reuse of validated simulation target models by developing a family of simulation target models. These models provide users high-quality radar frequency and infrared analysis models that can be employed with confidence into simulations. The models are easy to obtain through a web-based distribution system and are configured to support a wide range of simulation types.

For more information on the Virtual Targets Center, contact Robbin Finley at 256-842-6459 or robbin.finley@us.army.mil. ■



Credit: U.S. Army Photo/PM ITTS TMO

Project Manager for Instrumentation Targets and Threat Simulators' Targets Management Office is supporting the Office of Secretary of Defense Center for Countermeasures in development of the Towed Airborne Plume Simulator (TAPS) program. TAPS is a target towed by a manned aircraft that is intended to simulate various threat missiles' infrared signatures. After its development, plans call for TAPS to be used for operational testing of U.S. Air Force Missile Warning Systems in typical flight environments. The TAPS, pictured above, was being towed by a Lear 36 aircraft over Gulf Range, Fla., during airborne infrared characterization and measurement testing February 2009.

Let's Talk Finance: Times Are Changin'

From the Desk of John W. Kirch, Chief Financial Manager

During the presidential election last year, both candidates adopted a mantra of "Change" as one of the key planks in their platforms. This was a clarion call that there would be a change in how the Executive Branch of government would conduct the business of government, regardless of who was elected. The Department of Defense (DoD) has the largest budget in the Executive Branch, so it is logical to expect that DoD would experience significant change in the coming years. Additionally, with the evolving circumstances in Afghanistan, Iraq, and the Middle East, along with worldwide financial instability, a reasonable assessment may be that change is already here.

Given the premise that we are already in a changed world, with plenty more changes on the way, now is the time to endeavor to manage the change. To successfully manage change, it is critical to adopt a mindset that the end result will be better, despite any daunting immediate challenges. The DoD will likely be faced with a reduction in resources, and since that may be beyond our control, we need to see it as an opportunity to make PEO STRI and the Army better. The following Q&A with potential questions should help your program cope if the Department of Defense experiences a reduction in resources.

Q: I already have several unfunded requirements, and my funding has just been cut by 30 percent over the next six years.

Where's the silver lining in that dark cloud?

A: This is an opportunity to terminate some long overdue programs. For example, it's time to get rid of legacy programs that have been by-passed by technology or unexecutable programs that have only maintained skeleton crews to stay alive, but haven't really developed anything. It's also a good time to do away with redundant systems and programs we wanted to do away with, but other stakeholders kept them alive.

It is also an opportunity to re-baseline programs with immature technologies so they have more time to mature. It is also provides a good justification to redefine programs that failed to be everything to everyone. Furthermore, spiral developments may be more beneficial in the long run if more time is allotted between the updated versions.

Q: We just received notice that we are getting a 20 percent decrease in authorized manpower. Show me a silver lining in that!

A: This usually does not result in reductions in force, but rather it is most often achieved through attrition until the authorization goals are met. It is an optimal time to evaluate future needs and restructure your skill sets. As a matter of course, people just continue the work they've been doing for years without re-assessing the right size and mix of an organization. This could be an opportunity to improve efficiency.

Assuming the funding reduc-

tions come along with manpower reductions, our challenge is to fit the right number of people with the right skills into the programs that survive. A predictable, beneficial, and essential by-product of fewer people is a reduction in the layers of bureaucracy. This should improve communication within an organization and shorten approval times for everything. Each individual will most likely gain more authority, responsibility, and accountability for their work.

Often times, in an effort to avoid reductions in force, the federal government provides opportunities to re-train people for new requirements. This could serve both the organization and individuals well.

Q: How are the changing aspects of the war, DoD's funding, and the global financial crisis going to affect us at PEO STRI?

A: One word: Training. With the potential of many troops coming home sooner rather than later, this will lower DoD's expenses and could lessen reductions to acquisition programs.

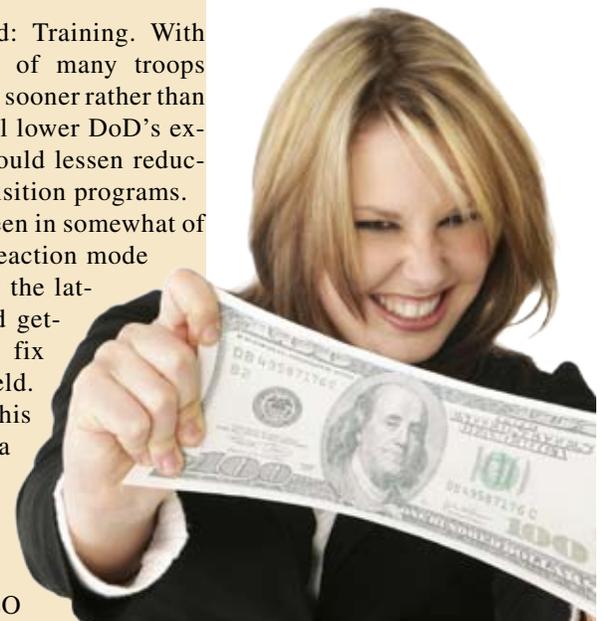
We have been in somewhat of a knee-jerk reaction mode to addressing the latest threat and getting a quick fix out to the field. We can use this time to take a breather and ply more engaging analyses solutions.

The PEO

motto says, "All but war is simulation." Since fewer of our troops will be at war, they will be training.

In summary...

Without a doubt, times are changing. It is reasonable for us to forecast that our financial and human resources to experience a downward shift. As wise stewards of our resources, we should face the new world, embrace change, and see this as an opportunity to make PEO STRI a more effective, efficient, and vital organization. ■



STRI TAKES SERIOUS GAMING TO THE NEXT LEVEL WITH VBS2

By Kristen Dooley McCullough, PEO STRI Public Affairs Officer

Soldiers all over the United States, and even in three locations abroad, will soon be training on the Army's newest game, Virtual Battlespace 2, or VBS2 for short. In fact, Soldiers at Forts Hood, Texas, Bragg, N.C., Carson, Colo., and Lewis, Wash., have been among the first groups to receive the Army's official game for training since February 2009.

"The Army takes gaming technology seriously because small unit leaders are highly receptive to using a technology they have grown up with. Small units use games for training to refine decision-making skills associated with shoot, move and communicate collective tasks in a mounted or dismounted environment," explained Lt. Col. Gary Stephens, product manager for air and command tactical trainers.

VBS2, the Army's next generation of games for training, was procured by PEO STRI in response to an operational needs statement from the U.S. Army Forces Command. The contract was awarded Dec. 19, 2008, to Laser Shot, Inc., for \$17.7 million over the next five years. In addition to the contract award for software, PEO STRI awarded a \$6 million contract to CDW-G for the actual computers.

From February to September 2009, PEO STRI will field 70 training systems to 53 locations across the continental United States, Germany, Italy and South Korea. Each system consists of 52 laptop computers and the associated peripheral gaming equipment.

"In VBS2, Soldiers are able to operate vehicles, fire weapons, pilot unmanned aerial vehicles

and do most anything a Soldier does in a high-fidelity synthetic environment," said Leslie Dubow, project director for gaming at PEO STRI.

Previous to VBS2, PEO STRI fielded the original game for training Soldiers, DARWARS Ambush!. The effort fielded 3,000 copies of the game to the Army, Navy, Air Force, Marines, Coast Guard and Department of Homeland Defense since 2006.

Much like DARWARS Ambush!, VBS2 is a first-person shooter game that portrays a realistic operational environment. In addition, both games offer an after action review capability.

The new game, however, has significant improvements over its predecessor. First, the geographical terrain database has increased from 13 kilometers by 13 kilometers to 100 kilometers by 100 kilometers. "The larger geographical space better represents the current operational environment," Stephens said.

Secondly, VBS2 offers a three-dimensional mission editor that allows users to make changes to the training scenario in real time. Additionally, a more user-friendly mission editor permits users to easily create training scenarios that are designated to meet training objectives.

Furthermore, the new game includes a Distributed Interactive Simulation-High Level Architecture interface that allows the system to interoperate with other virtual, constructive and battle command systems.

While PEO STRI is responsible for acquiring and fielding the game, the Training and Doctrine Command Training Capabilities Manager for Gaming is responsi-



U.S. Army Photo/Training and Doctrine Command

PEO STRI began fielding Virtual Battlespace 2, the Army's newest computer-based game for training, February 2008. The game replicates the environment that Soldiers are facing on today's battlefield.

ble for determining requirements and what skills Soldiers should learn from the game.

The game replicates what Soldiers encounter on today's battlefield so that users can practice a multitude of kinetic and non-

kinetic skills—everything from operating in an urban terrain and reacting to ambush operations to cultural and language awareness, explained Col. Mark McManigal, the TRADOC capabilities manager for gaming. ■

DID YOU KNOW?

One of the Army's new field manuals, Training for Full Spectrum Operations, states that gaming is the use of technology employing commercial or government off-the-shelf, multi-genre games in a realistic, semi-immersive environment to support education and training. Although the Army has used games informally for many years, it had never established a formal sustainable program for the acquisition and use of games until April 2008. VBS2 was developed as the first official Army game to train and educate Soldiers, leaders and organizations.

PEO STRI WELCOMES ANOTHER ACQUISITION ACADEMY CLASS

By Kristen Dooley McCullough, PEO STRI Public Affairs Officer

The second Acquisition Academy class, consisting of 18 Army interns, kicked-off March 2, 2009. Different from the first class that focused mainly on contracting skill sets, this time coursework covers an array of acquisition-related career fields. As such, each of the interns was hired into a specific career path, namely engineering, budget and program analysis, acquisition logistics, program management and contracting.

“For the second class, we wanted to create an integrated product team environment,” said Jean Burmester, dean of the Acquisition Academy. “With the multiple career programs integrated into one class, the interns will experience a typical work environment where many different people representing various functional areas work together on a program.”

The class—comprised of two project directors, three program analysts, a logistics management specialist, two budget analysts, six contract specialists and four engineers—is learning about their functional areas by studying an actual PEO STRI program: the Multiple Integrated Laser Engagement System.

In addition to the career-specific work, the interns will accomplish a multitude of administrative tasks during the 11-week multidisciplinary program. They have applied for and received security clearances, e-mail accounts and identification

badges.

Interns will also learn important information about federal employment, like government benefits, how to correctly report time and attendance, and how to use the Defense Travel System. They will receive ethics training, an orientation from their functional career representative and information on the National Security Personnel System.

Furthermore, the interns will become familiar with the PEO STRI mission, its strategic plan and the role of each of the project managers. They will be taught about Army organizations, installations, ranks and how the Army is structured.

“During the course, the class will travel to a nearby Army installation to see how Soldiers live and train,” Burmester noted. “The interns will even see many of the training products and services they will be supporting at PEO STRI.”

Upon the completion of the course, Burmester said success will be defined not only by attracting, but more importantly, retaining the new federal employees that, through the Academy, will have the essential knowledge and skills necessary for successful acquisition management at PEO STRI.

“Ensuring interns are provided the appropriate acquisition and functional requirements will go a long way in enabling PEO STRI to meet the Warfighters’ vital mission requirements,” Burmester noted. ■



Jean Burmester, Dean
Hometown: San Jose, Ca.
Education: B.S., Rollins College, and M.B.A., Florida Institute of Technology
Work experience: Director, ADL Co-Lab; senior project director, AVCATT

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Jean Burmester
Dean, Acquisition Academy



Hugo Carneiro
Hometown: Oviedo, Fla.
Education: Mechanical Engineering, University of Central Florida
Work experience: Refrigeration technician



William “Bill” Leeman
Hometown: Fort Myers, Fla.
Education: B.S. in finance, and working on an M.B.A., both from University of Central Florida
Work experience: Personal finance; commercial banking



Dan Santiago
Hometown: Jersey City, N.J.
Education: B.S. in technical and operational education, University of Southern Mississippi; M.S. in computing
Work experience: U.S. Air Force, PEO STRI Chief Information Office



Kerry Connors

Hometown: Hingham, Mass.
Education: M.A. in finance, Webster University
Work experience: U.S. Air Force; stockbroker; mortgage broker



Jesse Del Rio

Hometown: Carolina, Puerto Rico
Education: B.S. in finance, University of Central Florida
Work experience: Intern, Orlando Health; intern, Smith Barney



Jason Holden

Hometown: Grand Rapids, Minn.
Education: B.A. in legal studies, University of Central Florida
Work experience: Site acquisition; project coordinator



William "Billy" Jensen

Hometown: Navarre, Fla.
Education: B.S. in business marketing, University of Central Florida
Work experience: Personal banking



Aderian Kirk

Hometown: Miami, Fla.
Education: B.S. in accounting, University of Central Florida
Work experience: Banking; financial services; sales



Theodore "Ted" Lujan

Hometown: Santa Rosa, Ca.
Education: B.A. in justice administration, Hawaii Pacific University
Work experience: U.S. Army; pharmaceutical sales; business sales



Tinisha McCurdie

Hometown: Miami, Fla.
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Work experience: Web and graphic design



Ann Pham

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Work experience: Software development; banking



Carrie Pickett

Hometown: Longwood, Fla.
Education: B.S. in legal studies, University of Central Florida
Work experience: Senior paralegal, Holihan Law



Matt Sanders

Hometown: Tampa, Fla.
Education: B.S. in business administration
Work experience: Small business owner, Guam Contract Dive Services



John H. Smith III

Hometown: Columbus, Miss.
Education: M.B.A., University of Central Florida
Work experience: Land development manager



Wallace Tennille

Hometown: Patmos, Ga.
Education: B.S. in computer engineering; M.S. in electrical and computer engineering, both from Georgia Tech University
Work experience: Intern, HD Supply



Thomas Torres

Hometown: Orlando, Fla.
Education: B.S. in electrical engineering, University of Central Florida
Work experience: Best Buy



Dan Veenstru

Hometown: Largo, Fla.
Education: B.S. in business administration; M.B.A., both from University of Central Florida
Work experience: Product development manager, TouricoHolidays



Chester Williams

Hometown: Umatilla, Fla.
Education: B.S. in electrical engineering
Work experience: Engineering and management



PEO STRI, INDUSTRY STRATEGIC PARTNERING FORUM

By Linda Achee, Principal Consultant to PEO STRI

PEO STRI will soon host its first Strategic Partnering Forum with industry in the late-Spring, early-Summer of 2009. The forum's purpose is to share PEO STRI's strategic intent with industry while fostering a reciprocal environment in which industry shares their thoughts on strategic objectives in order to achieve the PEO's vision and mission.

Participants in the forum will

be selected from the total industry pool with the intent of having representation from large, small, new and established industry partners. Participants will be selected randomly and different participants will be selected for each successive forum session.

PEO STRI and industry will discuss ideas and provide feedback as to how they are strategically aligned to support the Warfighter.

The forum's goal is to achieve mutually beneficial strategic outcomes through collaboration. The forum is intended to facilitate the exchange of ideas, suggestions, recommendations and "roll up your sleeve" kinds of discussions that assist both industry and the PEO in efforts to define the initiatives that allow the community to move toward strategic objectives. ■



TEAM ORLANDO AT WORK: ARMY AND USMC MOVE TOWARD COMMON LIVE TRAINING SOLUTIONS

By William Samper, Lead Engineer in Project Manager Training Devices

The Army's Project Manager Training Devices (PM TRADE) and the Marine Corps' Assistant Program Manager Training Systems – Live (PM TRASYS APM-Live) signed an agreement to establish a Live Training Transformation (LT2) product line partnership to support the Marine Corps' range modernization and transformation programs.

The goal of the partnership is to promote interoperability and maximize the reusability of existing LT2 product line components to reduce acquisition costs and risks associated with PM TRASYS' range instrumentation systems.

The Program Level Agreement, or PLA, establishes PM TRASYS as a major stakeholder in the LT2 strategy to develop a live training range product line centered on common architectures and standards evolution. PM TRASYS will use the Common Training Instrumentation Architecture in the development of their range modernization and transformation programs.

The first LT2 delivery of Marine Corps Instrumentation Training System (MC-ITS) is going to

the 29 Palms site this year. The MC-ITS program will provide the basis for extending LT2 reuse to other Marine live training programs. It will extend the current capabilities to the future LT2 Consolidated Product Line Management strategy that will combine product line development and sustainment efforts for the LT2 Family of Training Systems (LT2-FTS).

The LT2 standardization efforts and Consolidated Product Line Management strategy will provide the following benefits to both organizations:

- Single management mechanism to consolidate all LT2-FTS sustainment and enhancement development efforts; a common live training solutions that lowers the total ownership life cycle costs across programs while mitigating potential cost, schedule and performance risks.
- Consolidation of test resources reduces overhead, integration and test costs, and cuts information assurance management and certification costs across LT2-FTS; reduces configuration and inventory management costs and provides for help desk support.
- Quality of service and prod-

ucts are increased through testing and resolving issues one time while deploying common solutions to all programs and training sites.

• Government and industry work together to establish interoperability and technology insertion standards that foster government product line evolution and simplify acquisition processes while allowing industry to maintain its competitive edge or business model.

With this approach, PM TRADE and PM TRASYS will use a col-

laborative integrated product team mechanism for coordinating all funding, contractual, technical, and management matters as related to the development efforts between the organizations. This allows for a bi-directional product visibility at the appropriate levels. Together both organizations will work to identify common enhancement opportunities that can be shared across LT2 products benefiting Army and Marine Corps future live training environments. ■



U.S. Army Photo

Col. Fred Mullins (left), PM TRADE project manager, and Brad Valdyke, PM TRASYS assistant program manager for live training systems, signed an agreement Nov. 28, 2009, to promote commonality among the Army and Marine Corps' live training programs.

ORGANIZATION DAY

Red Bug Lake Park

MARCH 27
SEVENTH



8:30-3:30
ANNUAL

TEAM BUILDING EVENTS:

Baking Contest
Basketball
Bingo
Dominos
Egg Toss

Extreme Engineering
Golf Chip
Horseshoes
Professional Relay
Softball

STRI-IDOL
Texas Hold 'Em
Tug of War
Volleyball
Water Relay

\$5

MENU INCLUDES:

**Hamburgers, BBQ Pork,
Hot Dogs, Salmon and MORE!**

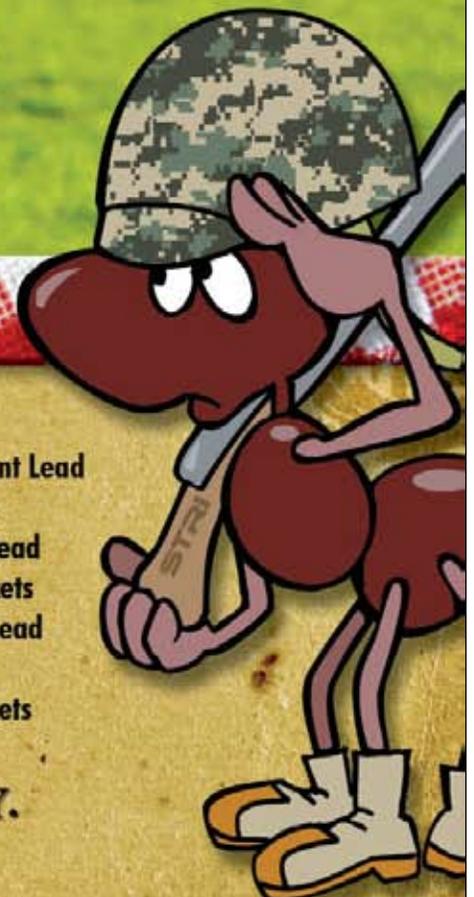
TICKETS AVAILABLE NOW!

Catherine Rolon, ACQ CTR, Tickets
Debbie Liedtke, ACQ CTR, Event Lead
Libby Devine, PM FF(S), Tickets
Kenny McMillian, PM FF(S), Event Lead
Jose Pepin, PM CATT, Tickets
Gil Ramos, PM CATT, Event Lead
Karen Coll, ARI, Tickets/Event Lead
Cindy Langeldt, PM CONSIM, Tickets

Jeff Goodman, PM CONSIM, Event Lead
Karrie Morin, PM TRADE, Tickets
Pat Garmley, PM TRADE, Event Lead
Sharmila-Vaswani, PM ITTS, Tickets
Katheen Lopez, PM ITTS, Event Lead
Cathy Beauvais, PSG, Tickets
Kathy Logan, PM Field OPS, Tickets

NO CHILDREN, NO PETS, EMPLOYEES ONLY.

This is a work day and your official duty station.





U.S. Army Photo/Doug Schaub

The Army PEO STRI team overwhelmingly defeated the Naval Air Warfare Center Training Systems Division team 60-19 at the University of Central Florida gymnasium March 12. The back row from left to right: Rob Reyenga, Phil Davis, Matt Burris (Air Force Agency for Modeling and Simulation), Scott Welcheck, Herbert McDuffie, Roger Hamilton, and Tony Tolbert. Pictured in the front row from left to right: Shi Deng and Brian Serra.



U.S. Army Photo/Doug Schaub

PEO STRI participated in the Defense GameTech User's Conference March 9-11, in Orlando, Fla. Government, industry and academia gaming experts discussed the current and future state of gaming technologies and virtual worlds that train Warfighters. Maj. Gen. Jason Kamiya from the U.S. Joint Forces Command provided the keynote address. As pictured above, both Kamiya himself and his virtual avatar briefed the audience. Those attendees unable to attend the conference in person were able to participate in the virtual world of Second Life.



U.S. Army Photo/Doug Schaub

The Acquisition Academy participated in the University of Central Florida Challenge Course March 6. The outdoor adventure is offered through UCF's Recreation and Wellness Center. The half-day event consisted of eleven different elements focused on enhancing group cohesion, communication, and leadership. It challenged participants mentally and physically as they planned and executed solutions to different obstacles.

MRAP... continued from cover

focusing on the fidelity of the vehicle and its dynamics—the point at which the vehicle will rollover,” Stein explained. “To accurately do this, we’ve worked with the subject matter experts in this field: equipment manufacturers and Soldiers who’ve operated an MRAP in theater.”

The CDT-MRAP variant is based on PEO STRI’s original driver trainer for the Stryker vehicle and the follow-on improvements made with the tank variant.

“It was beneficial to model the new MRAP driver trainers on previous driver trainers because we were able leverage the same motion base and instructor stations on the Stryker and tank variants,” Stein said.

“This gives units the flexibility to change cabs and train on the MRAP, Stryker, tank, and some day in the near future, a tactical wheeled vehicle,” he noted.

Much like the Stryker and tank driver trainers, the MRAP trainer also includes a motion platform, image generators, an instructor/operator station and an after action review station. Most importantly, the CDT family of driving simulations is modular, interchangeable and allows multiple variants to be compatible with the common training platform.

“All these qualities are important because they contribute to maintainability, sustainability and a cost-avoidance to the Army,” Stein said.

In addition to the driver trainer, PEO STRI is also fielding an MRAP egress trainer in response to an urgent operational needs statement from Iraq. Nearly 30 egress trainers will be fielded within the coming months.

The MRAP egress trainer is modeled on PEO STRI’s High

Mobility Multipurpose Wheeled Vehicle Egress Assistance Trainer, and much like its predecessor, the “MRAP trainer proves to be an Army solution to an Army problem,” noted Dr. James Blake, program executive officer for PEO STRI.

Many organizations within the Army came together to make both egress trainers a reality. The Tank-Automotive Research, Development and Engineering Center designed and built the prototype. This effort was funded by the Army and the Marines’ joint office, Program Manager MRAP.

Once the prototype was certified for safety, the Red River Army Depot began production of the trainers based on the prototype.

Finally, PEO STRI is responsible for getting the device into the hands of the Warfighters in which the initial fielding schedule calls for 25 egress trainers to go to the Army in the theater of combat operations. Additionally, three devices will go to the Marines.

“Without a doubt, MRAP driver and egress trainers are important because many of the Soldiers and Marines driving MRAP vehicles down range won’t get the opportunity to operate these vehicle until they’re in the theater of combat operations. We are giving our Warfighters the opportunity to train prior to getting in the seat,” Stein said. ■



U.S. Army Photo

PEO STRI’s MRAP Egress Assistance Trainer provides Soldiers the opportunity to experience a simulated rollover in order to learn the proper tactics and techniques to safely get out of the vehicle. The trainer prepares Soldiers for the event of an actual vehicle rollover in the combat zone.

HOLIDAYS Events

April 2

PMT 352B Graduation Ceremony

April 3

Colors

April 15

Barber shop Opens in de Florez

April 17

Leadership Development Seminar

April 22

Administrative Professionals' Day

April 22

Earth Day

April 22

Jeans Day

Protocol TIP OF THE MONTH

By Marge Hadbavny, Protocol Officer

Internet Safety Tips for Parents

Although technological advances are helping to bring people together, they also are causing new problems for parents. Here are some points to help keep your kids safe.

- Talk to your kids about what they are doing in cyberspace.
- Know with whom your kids are communicating.
- Consider limitations on electronic communication.
- Be aware of what your kids are posting publicly.
- Make sure you are clear about what you consider appropriate electronic behavior.
- Remember anything you send or post in cyberspace will never truly go away.



A QUESTION FOR THE ACQUISITION ACADEMY INTERNS...

“What do you hope to accomplish while at the Academy?”



“I plan to complete all the requirements, become an efficient project director and be open to the many opportunities available at PEO STRI.”

Kerry Connors

U.S. Army Photo/Doug Schaub



“I hope to learn more about the organization, what the various PM Shops do and how my role can make a difference for the Warfighter.”

Aderian Kirk

U.S. Army Photo/Doug Schaub



“I intend to acquire as much knowledge as possible so that I can jump into the STRI workforce and contribute to my team’s success.”

Ted Lujan

U.S. Army Photo/Doug Schaub



“I hope to be recognized as a finance professional with broad acquisition knowledge and outstanding business acumen.”

Tinisha McCurdie

U.S. Army Photo/Doug Schaub

Want your opinion heard? Answer April's Question! This question is open to the entire workforce!
Earth Day is April 22; what are you doing to make this world greener? Send your response to
Kristen.Dooley@us.army.mil and put Citizen STRI in the subject line.



DO YOU TRAVEL ON OFFICIAL DUTY?

DON'T FORGET TO USE CITY PAIR

Travelers are required to book their airfare through City Pair. There are a few exceptions when travelers do not need to use City Pair (for example, the flight does not get the passenger to his or her destination in time, or there are no City Fair flights to the traveler's destination). If a non-City Pair flight is booked, travelers are responsible for ensuring appropriate justifications are entered into the Defense Travel System authorization.



For more information on City Pair, reference the Travel tab on PEO STRI's knowledge Center.

Hails and Farewells

Hails

Michel Berry	PSG
Stephen Bushway	PM ConSim
Cameron Clarke	PSG
Joseph Danet-Molina	PSG
Juan Garcia	PSG
Bridgette Graham	Acq. Center
Stephanie Johnson	PSG
Patrick Lloyd	PSG
Joe Moreira	PM Field OPS
Richard Parrott	PSG
Eugene Phillips	PM TRADE
Nancy Rallis	PM TRADE
Clarebelo Reynoso	PSG
Cicely Simmons	Acq. Center
Susan Stauffer	Acq. Center
Don Stewart	PM ConSim
Mary Vick	PSG
William Vincent	Acq. Center

Farewells

Betty Carden	PM ITTS
Aida Caron	PM ITTS
Wynema Coffey	PM ITTS
Ilene Crapps	Acq. Center
Janine Daniels	PEO Staff
Tony Giannoni	PM ITTS
Jeffrey Iddins	PM Field OPS
Sharon McLaughlin	Acq. Center
Mary Truesdell	PSG

GET YOUR BLUE JEANS READY!

JEANS DAY WILL BE HELD APRIL 22, 2009.

As the name implies, this is the one day set aside every year when all employees are encouraged to come to work in blue jeans and clean their offices, files and storage areas. Employees are encouraged to recycle and dispose of unused materials in their assigned office space. Collection stations will be set up on each floor of every building. There will be a monitor at each station who will provide boxes and labels, answer general questions, and inspect material being dropped off to ensure it can be properly disposed of. Collection stations will contain recycling bins, disposal areas for office supplies and areas to drop off surplus office furniture.

Look out for more information on Jeans Day.



INSIDE PEO STRI

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