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## WORTH REPEATING



**Our science and technology investment strategy will focus on identifying and linking critical enabling technologies to existing and future programs of record."**

**~Hon. Heidi Shyu, Army Acquisition Executive and Assistant Secretary of the Army for Acquisition, Logistics and Technology**



Soldiers conduct mission training on VBS2.

U.S. Army Photo

## NEWLY ENHANCED GAMING SYSTEM TAKES VIRTUAL TRAINING TO NEW LEVELS

By Rick Gregory, APEO Business Operations Support Staff

While many moms and dads are scolding their children to spend less time playing with video games and more time outdoors, Army leaders are scheduling time on their training schedules to get their Soldiers in front of the Virtual Battlespace 2 (VBS2) video console.

Since being launched in February 2009, the 3-D Games for Training platform has played an important role in preparing thousands of Soldiers for mission readiness prior to deploying.

In an article published by Murray State University in April 2011, leaders from the 101st Airborne Division, Fort Campbell, Ky., spoke about the importance of using the VBS2 as a training tool, not a game.

"The idea is that we don't want our Soldiers to just run in, charge in and get shot down," 2nd Lt. Chris Armbruster said. "They should treat this as though they were actually going into combat."



U.S. Army Photo

Detailed simulation of freefalling and parachuting, including realistic movement, has been added to VBS2.

Prior to the interview, Armbruster had familiarized himself with VBS2 that morning and by the end of the day a group of his Soldiers had already completed an extensive simulated mission in Afghanistan.

"We practiced our ability to conduct a convoy operation, had a key leader engagement and pulled

perimeter security," he said. "We even had a platoon leader go in with an intelligence specialist and speak with a simulated local physician in the village."

The lieutenant will be happy to know that ongoing enhancements to the gaming system are making the simulated battle experience

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U.S. Army PEO STRI  
Photo/Doug Schaub

**Rob Reyenga**  
Deputy Program Executive  
Officer for PEO STRI

# From the Desk of the DPEO: Plans for a Customer Feedback Initiative will Soon be Underway

By Rob Reyenga, Deputy Program Executive Officer for PEO STRI

In the previous issue of the newsletter, I introduced PEO STRI's new strategic alignment concept. It's the plan to pull together our strategy, people, processes and customers' needs for a more effective organizational alignment. To do so, we're strategically aligning our PM shops, Acquisition Center and PEO staff in order to meet the needs of our customers in this resource-constrained environment. At this time, I'd like to provide insight on how we intend to respond to our customers' needs in an efficient and meaningful approach.

Customer feedback is of utmost importance. Our effectiveness is measured by the training and testing capabilities that we provide to our Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen and Marines, and to our interagency and allied partners.

The primary method we will use to obtain feedback from our customers is to conduct an Installation Survey. Linda Achee and Greg Harrison of PEO STRI's Strategic

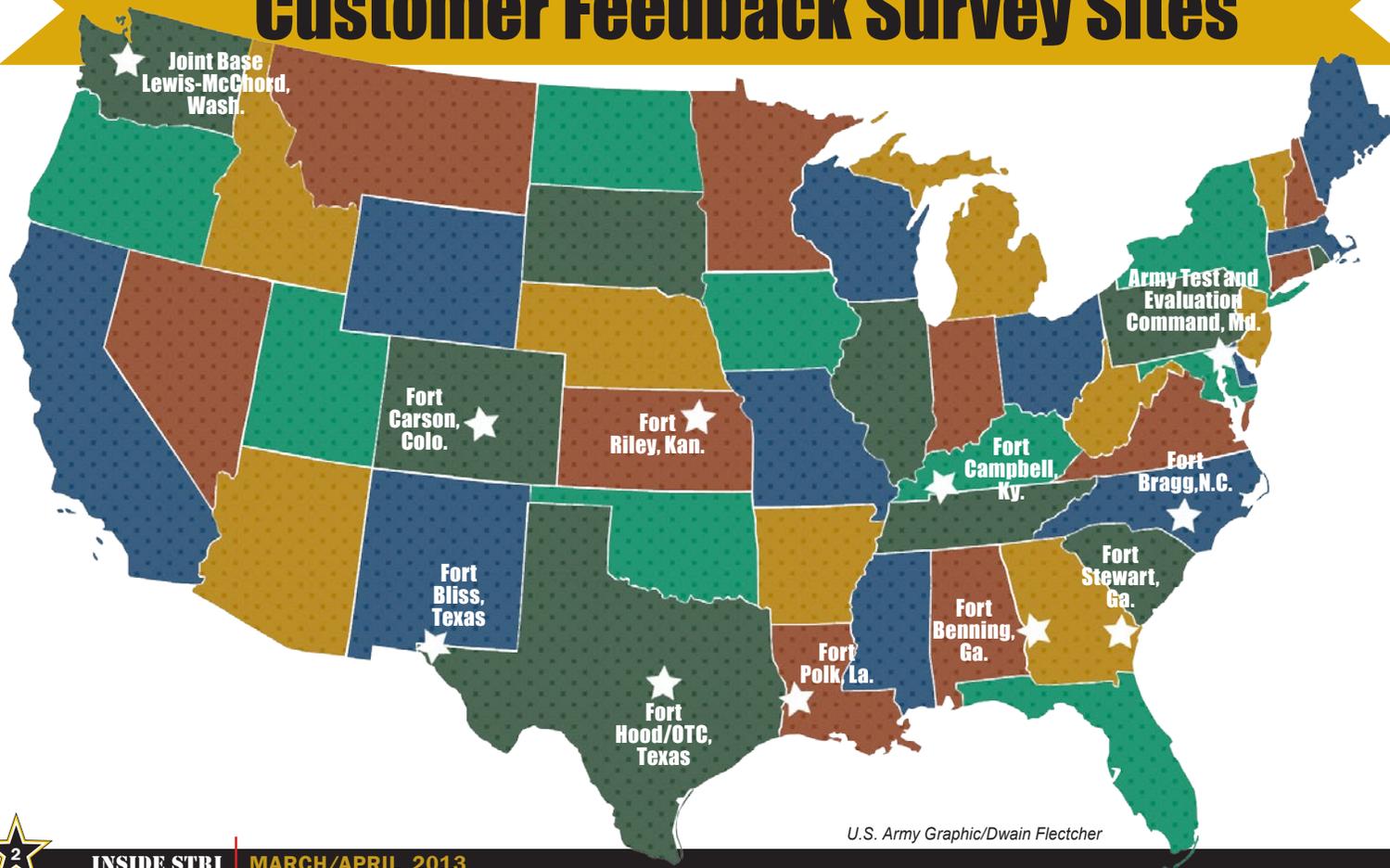
Integration Office will conduct these surveys by visiting a representative sample of Army installations to interview key individuals involved in the scheduling, operation, evaluation and maintenance of training and testing enablers provided by PEO STRI.

Each individual interviewee, ranging from the deputy commanding general to the field service representative, will be asked a series of questions to obtain feedback on which type of training or testing is most critical to the interviewee and how well PEO STRI enablers meet their installation's needs.

The feedback from the Installation Surveys will be used to make more informed decisions about our strategy, goals and objectives, and how to better align our processes and resources to meet our customers' needs.

For more information about this undertaking, contact the senior advisors to the Strategic Integration Office at (407) 384-5466 or (407) 384-5457.

## Customer Feedback Survey Sites



U.S. Army Graphic/Dwain Fletcher

# Army Says Fiscal Year 2014 Budget Request 'Meets Future Challenges'

By David Vergun, Army News Service

The fiscal year 2014 budget “meets future challenges, strengthens global engagements, provides for resets, sustains the industrial base and fulfills commitments to Soldiers, civilians and families,” the Army’s top civilian leader told lawmakers.

Secretary of the Army John M. McHugh and Chief of Staff of the Army Gen. Ray Odierno testified April 25 before the full House Armed Services Committee regarding the “Fiscal Year 2014 National Defense Authorization Budget Request.”

The \$129.7 billion fiscal year 2014 budget “allows us to plan for and mitigate risk associated with declining defense budgets,” Odierno said during his opening remarks, which followed the secretary’s.

“It is imperative we gain predictability in our budget process,” Odierno continued. “If we don’t, then we’ll be unable to effectively manage

our resources and it will be impossible to make informed decisions about the future of our Army.”

The leaders emphasized to congressmen the need for a budget and the dangers of an ongoing environment of fiscal uncertainty.

“We’re at a dangerous crossroad,” McHugh said, explaining that shortfalls in the overseas contingency operation budget, coupled with sequestration, continuing resolutions and lack of a budget, are taking a toll on readiness, efforts at modernization and morale.

## CAPABILITY EROSION

One congressman said he was “deeply troubled” not only by the Army’s fiscal difficulties but by its shrinking force.

He asked if the end strength continues to fall – coupled with the effects of continued sequestration – would the Army be able to respond effectively were two major contingency



U.S. Army Photo

Secretary of the Army John M. McHugh addresses the House Armed Services Committee April 25 regarding the Fiscal Year 2014 National Defense Authorization Budget Request.

operations to occur simultaneously, or at least one major contingency and a smaller one.

“We’d have significant issues meeting anything more than one contingency – if we

*Continued on page 6*

# Spring/Summer Safety Awareness Campaign is Now Available on AKO

Article provided by the Directorate of Communication and Public Affairs, U.S. Army Combat Readiness/Safety Center at Fort Rucker, Ala.

With spring here and summer rapidly approaching, the U.S. Army Combat Readiness/Safety Center recently released an update to the Off-Duty Safety Awareness Presentation (ODSAP), a tool designed to help Soldiers and civilians recognize hazards during these high-risk seasons.

Data from previous years show accidental fatalities generally rise between April and September, with a majority of those deaths occurring off duty.

“During the last five fiscal years, the Army has lost an average of 133 Soldiers to off-duty accidents annually,” said U.S. Army Combat Readiness/Safety Center Command Sgt. Maj. Richard D. Stidley. “As an institution, we can and must change this trend.”

The 2013 version of the ODSAP charts, themed “What Have You Done to Save a Life Today?”, contains materials and statistics that highlight the role of safety in off-duty activities,

addresses risky behaviors and emphasizes the often deadly consequences of fatigue and alcohol. The package features embedded videos from actual Soldiers telling their safety stories.

“Soldiers [and civilians] can be part of the solution in preventing the next accident and senseless loss of life,” said Lt. Col. James Smith, director of the U.S. Army Combat Readiness/Safety Center Ground Directorate. “This presentation provides great conversation starters for young leaders by sharing real-world stories Soldiers can relate to and talk about.”

“Our goal is to help Soldiers [and civilians] recognize the off-duty hazards they face,” Stidley said. “We need to ensure they apply the principles of training, discipline and standards that they embrace on duty to their off duty activities as well.”

The presentation is available at <https://safety.army.mil/ODSAP>, and AKO login is required.

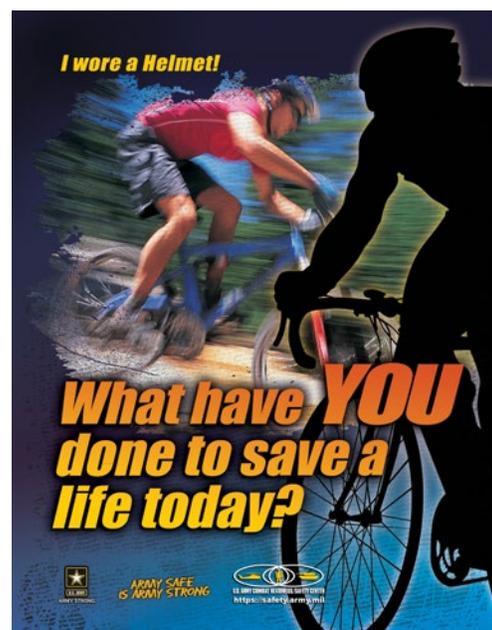


Image courtesy of U.S. Army Combat Readiness/Safety Center

# PM Field Ops Provides Warfighter Support Around the World, Around the Clock

By Rick Gregory, APEO Business Operations Support Staff

Two years ago, a group from the Afghanistan National Security Forces was selected to be pilots. Ironically, many of them had never even driven a car. All of them spoke very little English and had elementary-level math and science skills.

Thanks to the contracting efforts of a team from Program Manager for Field Operations, a graduation ceremony was held recently in the United Arab Emirates for nine members of the group. Of the nine new pilots, five will fly rotary-wing aircraft and four will pilot fixed-wing airplanes. Twenty-five Afghans have now completed the pilot training program.

“The entire PM Field Ops team derives a great deal of satisfaction in playing a large role in seeing these young Afghans complete their pilot training,” said Russ McBride, the program manager for PM Field Ops. “We put the contract in place for them to be able to do that. We exercised our quality assurance plan and have folks who, among other tasks, inspect the files, the food and the living conditions on a regular basis. It’s a team effort.”

Working with the NATO Training Mission Afghanistan is just a part of what McBride’s team does on a daily basis. With approximately 177 people on his Field Ops team, which includes 50 SETA contractors and support staff from the Acquisition Center, finance directorate and engineering, they oversee more than 7,000 contracted personnel at 165 locations around the world.

“Our work never stops,” McBride said.

“Literally, the sun never sets. We have people in time zones like South Korea that are 13 hours ahead of us; eight and a half ahead of us in Afghanistan; eight hours ahead of us in the United Arab Emirate; seven hours ahead of us in Kuwait; six hours ahead of us in Germany; six hours behind us in Hawaii, and so on.”

Along with PM Field Ops members who are dispersed internationally, there are also customer service representatives (CSRs) who are supporting the mission at bases around the United States.

He said the mission of the CSRs is to perform inherently governmental work by providing the oversight of PEO STRI contracts where there is the heaviest density of training systems and contractors. Currently there are 18 locations where the CSRs are stationed.

The daily mission of PM Field Ops is twofold, McBride said.

“Our direct mission is sustaining PEO STRI’s products after the project managers field them. We are the project managers’ agent for sustainment,” he explained. “That’s our training systems maintenance and supply support part of the operation. It’s about one-third of the money we put on contracts and it’s also our most fundamental responsibility.”

This part of PM Field Ops’ work begins after the project managers put together a life-cycle management plan for a training device or system they are fielding. Within that plan, McBride

said, are the requirements for support in the field to sustain it. Then, at a certain point, PM Field Ops becomes responsible for sustainment of the training product.

“Everybody has an understanding of when it is going to transition to us for support and those things that have to happen in order for it to be successful when it does transfer over,” McBride said. “That includes training the contractors to be trainers and receiving new equipment training that is provided by the original equipment manufacturers to our maintenance contractors in the field. That is all spelled out in the life-cycle management plan.”

The other two-thirds of money that PM Field Ops teams’ put on contracts is their support mission. While they did approximately \$1.3 billion of work last year, upwards of \$900 million of that went toward support mission work supporting other Army units as well as other U.S. and international military services.

“That support mission includes things like supporting Special Forces training at Fort Bragg, N.C., sniper training for the Marine Corps, advanced driver training for SEALs and the training we do in the United Arab Emirates for the Afghanistan National Army,” McBride explained. “We also have over a thousand contractors on the ground at Fort Huachuca, Ariz., who are in the business of helping them with their military intelligence training.”

*Continued on page 9*



Photo courtesy of Raytheon

Members of the Afghanistan National Security Force stand on the platform after their recent graduation from pilot training.



# Brigadier General Espailat Returns to STRI for General Officer Promotion Ceremony

By Kristen A. McCullough, PEO STRI Public Affairs Officer

More than 200 attendees crowded a room in Partnership III to witness Brig. Gen. Francisco Espailat's pinning ceremony. Espailat is only the third colonel in PEO STRI and STRICOM's long lineage of great military leaders to rise to the rank of general officer directly from his assignment here.

"The Army promotes for two reasons—past performance and future potential," said Lt. Gen. William N. Phillips, the principal military deputy at the Office of the Assistant Secretary of the Army for Acquisition, Logistics and Technology, who presided over the March 8 ceremony. "Today I can promise you that our Army is promoting one of our best and brightest."

Espailat served four years as the project manager for PM CATT from 2008 to 2012, where he oversaw great advancements in medical and game-based training, squad-level immersive simulation and air to ground simulation capabilities.

"At PM CATT, Francisco was truly heralded as a leader," Phillips said. "I don't know how many Soldiers' lives he saved [through training] as part of the PM CATT family, but I know it was more than 1,000. At the end of the day, there's no greater calling."

Espailat departed PEO STRI in late June for a position with the Defense Logistics Agency headquartered in Fort Belvoir, Va., where he currently serves as the executive director on the joint staff for logistics operations.

In January, he was officially promoted to brigadier general, joining a corps of 390 general officers who make up less than one percent of the service's uniformed personnel.

Espailat's mantra for past and future success remains his dedication to Soldiers. "Focusing on taking care of Soldiers, you can never go wrong," he said.

In the coming months, Espailat will take on his next assignment in Kuwait.



U.S. Army PEO STRI Photo/Doug Schaub

Lt. Gen. William N. Phillips presides over the March 8 pinning ceremony for Brig. Gen. Espailat.



U.S. Army PEO STRI Photo/Doug Schaub

Hundreds gather in Partnership III for Brig. Gen. Francisco Espailat's pinning ceremony.



## PEO STRI Honors Denton's Service

Earle Denton (center left) is recognized for his advocacy of modeling and simulation and his lifetime dedication to the U.S. Army at the March 7 Town Hall Meeting as his wife, Carol, retired Brig. Gen. Steve Seay (left) and retired Maj. Gen. Bill Bond look on.

U.S. Army PEO STRI Photo/Doug Schaub

# Army Leaders Inform Congressional Members about the Future of the Force

By Kristen A. McCullough, U.S. Army PEO STRI Public Affairs

The Secretary of the Army and the Chief of Staff of the Army released the 2013 Posture Statement April 23 to Congress for the annual posture hearings. The Army Posture Statement informs Congress on the Army's accomplishments, initiatives and priorities for Congress to consider when reviewing the president's budget for the upcoming fiscal year.

In the posture statement titled, "Sustaining U.S. Global Leadership: Priorities for 21st Century Defense," the senior leaders wrote, "Over the past 12 years of conflict, our Army has proven itself in arguably the most difficult environment we have ever faced.

"We cannot take the readiness of the force for granted. Sequestration budget cuts and continuing fiscal uncertainty have placed us on the outer edge of acceptable risk for our future force," they noted in the posture statement.

The 2013 Army Posture Statement describes the Army's vision to continue to provide the



U.S. Army Photo

Secretary of the Army  
John McHugh



U.S. Army Photo

Chief of Staff of the Army  
Gen. Ray Odierno

nation with strategic land power in a challenging fiscal environment. The Fiscal Year 2014 Budget is designed to meet the Army's mission requirements and balance the force structure, attain readiness and sustain modernization as it builds for the future.

Specifically, the Army's top leaders said

in the posture statement that, "Preventing conflict demands presence, shaping the environment demands presence, restoring the peace demands presence, and more often than not, that presence proudly wears the uniform of an American Soldier."

A print version of the 2013 Army Posture Statement was provided to each member of Congress in time for the senior Army leader testimony related to the fiscal year 2014 budget, which took place in late April.

During the testimony April 25, Chief of Staff of the Army Gen. Ray Odierno said to Congress, "It is imperative we gain predictability in our budget process. If we don't, then we'll be unable to effectively manage our resources and it will be impossible to make informed decisions about the future of our Army."

An online version of the 2013 Army Posture Statement is available to the public at <http://www.army.mil/info/institution/posturestatement/>.

## CHALLENGES *continued from page 3*

can meet even one contingency," Odierno replied.

Just two years ago the Army had 45 brigades. Soon it will be down to between 32 and 37, he said.

Also, were a conflict to break out, "we'd have to figure out how we're able to use our National Guard brigades much quicker than we can now," as it takes longer to get those Soldiers trained.

The congressman followed up with another question, asking if the Army is as prepared today as it was on Sept. 10, 2001, a day before the terrorist attacks.

"We're not as ready as we were in 2001," Odierno responded.

He added that "history has taught us that if we are off balance, the enemy will seek advantage."

Another congressman asked about the state of the organic industrial base and how the Army's proposed budget would address concerns associated with a reduced workflow caused by budget shortfalls.

McHugh said he's been working with the Defense Department on that issue and initiated

a study a year ago, with the data now being refined and being prepared for release.

The analysis, he said, examines where the failure points are and examines the efficiency processes at the depots and arsenals. He said highly skilled workers have been identified as well.

The results of the study will help the Army "identify single points of failure" to more effectively align dollars with efforts.

The Army leaders were questioned on a number of other topics, some of which were not directly tied to budget talks.

## CASE FOR ROTATIONS

A congressmen said that the Army invests a lot of time and money in training Soldiers to learn a language and train for region-specific missions. He questioned the value and wisdom of aligning a unit of Soldiers to a particular region and then later realigning that unit to a different region, given that investment.

While language is important, it's "just one piece," Odierno responded. "Understanding culture and the underlying socio-economic

factors of countries" is the other. He added that having a high cultural awareness and appreciation can be transferrable from region to region.

Another reason to not lock Soldiers into a specific region, Odierno said, is that "our young leaders want to be involved in more than one region. It's exciting to them" and adds to their development and desire to remain in the Army.

Before a brigade rotates to a region, there's about a year's worth of region-specific training, as well as normal combined arms maneuver and wide-area security training, he said, adding that training at the national training centers has suffered as a result of budget cuts.

Division and corps-level headquarters will be "habitually" aligned with regions, he explained. Brigades will rotate, however. And also, Soldiers will rotate between brigades.

"The jury is still out over whether to assign brigades habitually over time to regions," he concluded, adding that as new threats emerge globally, the rotations might have to be adjusted.

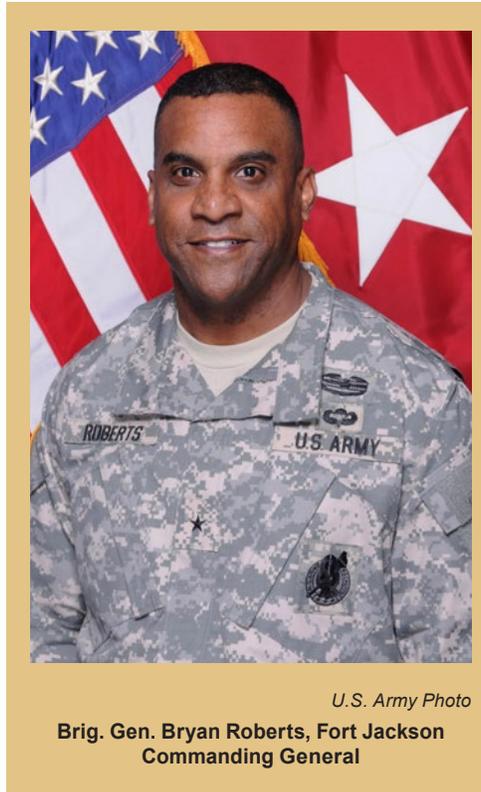
# A Message from Fort Jackson's Commander: Software Boosts Army Training Capacity

By Brig. Gen. Bryan Roberts, Fort Jackson Commanding General

No one knows for sure what the battlefield of tomorrow will be for our Soldiers. This future uncertainty has caused us to have to adjust the way we train in the 21st century. We've had to develop tools that afford us the flexibility to train our Soldiers to be able to face any conceivable threat and environment.

I am a huge advocate for Soldiers performing the training in a live situation. The issue with only training live, however, is that it is extremely resource intensive. Over the last decade, the Army has put a special emphasis on our simulation and virtual training applications. The implementation of these systems has significantly increased our training capacity and capability in addition to our efficiency and effectiveness. Like the rest of the Army, Fort Jackson is using a few of these systems in our efforts to facilitate the transition of our civilian recruits into technically and tactically proficient Soldiers.

One of the tools is the Engagement Skills Trainer, or EST, which allows Soldiers to get acquainted with weapons on a simulated firing range before heading to the live fire range. This training tool provides several benefits. The weapon systems are virtually identical to the real thing; the mechanisms, weight, feel, etc., are indistinguishable. As mentioned earlier, there is also a resource benefit associated with the EST because it allows Soldiers more time to practice marksmanship fundamentals without the normal constraints, such as number of rounds, available trainers and daylight hours. Furthermore, our capabilities are enhanced as the software provides the Soldiers with valuable feedback that live training cannot provide.



U.S. Army Photo

Brig. Gen. Bryan Roberts, Fort Jackson  
Commanding General

Another training enhancer that we are using is the Virtual Battle Space 2 (VBS2) application. It is a comprehensive open platform with proven capability for training, simulation and development. Next generation gaming technology is adapted to provide collective military and tactical training and mission rehearsal worldwide. Basically, the software enables Soldiers to conduct just about any type of training using a virtual medium and an avatar.

VBS2 offers a high-fidelity virtual sandbox where individual or collective training can be conducted. Soldiers are prepared for real-life challenges by being immersed in lifelike virtual environments. Simulations are operated from the first-person perspective on standard desktop computers, and example training outcomes may include learning new convoy drills, or understanding how to correctly assemble and disassemble an M-4 Carbine.

We are using VBS2 to enhance training such as land navigation, buddy team live fire exercise, and even battle drills, including react to contact. This type of training meets our Soldiers where they are, and that kind of training is priceless. These alternative training methods are becoming the norm as we implement the Army Learning Model 2015, and they have become more expedient as we have had to assess our resource consumption.

The difference in these 21st century training methods is that we are still able to maintain rigor and realism in the training so we do not renege on our pledge to continue to produce the most lethal, versatile, adaptive, technically and tactically proficient Soldiers the world has ever known. It is imperative that we improve our methods of training so that they stay relevant.

Although our missions will change, our purpose will always remain the same. Our nation expects us to be ready when called upon to fight for our freedoms and the American way of life. By continually improving our training methods, I have no doubt in my mind that we'll always be ready.



## Reyenga Hosts First Leader Forum

Participants of PEO STRI's first Leader Discovery Forum, a developmental program for personnel recently promoted to the NH-IV level, complete the seven-month session April 5. The inaugural forum participants, who were counseled by the Deputy PEO Mr. Rob Reyenga, include: Shelly Moore, Kim Tedeschi, Jim Golden, Patti Highland, Rich McGovern, Ming Vuong, Felix Marrero and Scott Pulford.

U.S. Army PEO STRI Photo/Doug Schaub



# CITIZEN STRI

## QUESTION:

With sequestration and continuing resolution affecting our budget, and the possibility of a civilian furlough, what keeps your professional morale high?



**BOB ARORA,**  
PM ITTS

“Even with the daily challenges on the job, the thing I keep in focus is realizing the sacrifices that Soldiers and their families have to make and how our efforts help support their mission and keep them safe.”



**GLORIA E. BAILEY,**  
ACQUISITION CENTER

“Knowing that every day I perform my due diligence to get the best products and services to meet the Soldiers’ needs ensuring I am a good steward of the taxpayers’ dollars. That in itself keeps my morale up.”



**CORRETTA M. BENTON,**  
ACQUISITION CENTER

“I am a strong believer in the power of God and the power of prayer. I know that everything happens for a reason. The people I work with at PEO STRI are great, so it’s hard to be anything but positive. Everything will work out.”

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

**What activities or trips do you have planned for this summer?**

Send your response to

*Kristen.McCullough@us.army.mil*  
and put *Citizen STRI* in the subject line.

# HOLIDAYS & Events

May 3 .....	Colors Ceremony
May 12 .....	Mother’s Day
May 17.....	Leadership Development Seminar
May 27 .....	Memorial Day
June 12-13 .....	Training & Simulation Industry Symposium
June 15 .....	AUSA Sunshine Chapter Army Birthday Ball
June 16 .....	Father’s Day

## INSIDE PEO STRI

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even more realistic. A VBS2 2.0 version was just released in March. In the first two days of launching the upgrade on the MilGaming Portal, more than 8,000 license requests had been initiated.

“The new version of VBS2 is being very well received in the field,” said Leslie Dubow, PEO STRI’s project director for Games for Training. “Users tell us they especially appreciated the higher fidelity of the graphics, the increased realism of the vehicles and the upgraded water dynamics.”

Some of the major upgrades to VBS2 include:

- The artificial intelligence (opposing force characters, civilians, etc.) has been enhanced to allow them to have a better understanding of their surrounding terrain, which allows them to move through much smaller spaces, use various features of the terrain for cover and generally act in a much smarter, more tactical and realistic manner.
- A new “surrender editor object” allows a scenario designer to determine what will cause an artificial intelligence unit to surrender. Players are now able to capture and restrain surrendering units and issue orders to them such as to move to a certain location or to enter a vehicle.
- A full scuba dive kit is now available that allows divers to conduct shore breaching,

including removing their diving gear, as well as being able to exit and board small boats. Also, the visualization of being underwater at varying depths and detailed 3-D underwater features like rocks, coral and sea life can be rendered.

- A detailed simulation of freefalling and parachuting is now available. This includes realistic movement while in freefall and under the canopy.
- Battlefield realism has also been enhanced for medical scenarios.
  - Wounded players can now scream or groan depending on the injury sustained, allowing players to hear when medical attention is required.
  - Bleeding is now a factor in the medical scenario and, if not stemmed, the individual(s) may die from a loss of blood.
  - More realism has been added when a patient has to be carried on a litter.
  - A new capability to access a medical aid action will provide the player with a list of symptoms that the player may address, dependent on their medical kit and skills.
- Body armor improvements provide both beneficial and negative effects on the player. When wearing body armor it provides the

added protection from bullet strikes, but it is offset by the weight causing a quicker fatigue factor.

Another major upgrade to VBS2, Dubow pointed out, is the ability to ‘play’ on a much larger terrain area.

“This is important to the Games for Training commitment to the Live, Virtual, Constructive Integrating Architecture (LVC-IA),” she said. “The LVC-IA team is already experimenting with VBS2 in their lab.”

Brig. Gen. Bryan Roberts, the commanding general at Fort Jackson, S.C., is a big advocate of VBS2. He’s using it to train new Army recruits on a number of skills.

“We are using VBS2 to enhance training such as land navigation, buddy team live fire exercises, and even battle drills, including react to contact,” he said in an article he wrote last month. “This type of training meets our Soldiers where they are, and that kind of training is priceless. These alternative training methods are becoming the norm as we implement the Army Learning Model 2015, and they have become more expedient as we have had to assess our resource consumption.”

To learn more about VBS2, visit the Games for Training website and use your DoD Common Access Card to access <https://milgaming.army.mil/VBS2>.

## **PM FIELD OPS** *continued from page 4*

He pointed out that the PM Field Ops team has also played a significant role in preparing for the drawdown in Iraq and Afghanistan.

“We had a lot to do with training the Iraqis to the point that the Defense Department could withdraw from there,” he said. “We are doing the same things for the NATO Training Mission Afghanistan. We are a big part of their success and will continue to be over the next few years.”

While many people with his responsibilities would be reaching for a bottle of Somnifex to get to sleep, McBride said there isn’t much that keeps him up at night. The confidence that he has in his team and the support of his boss is all the sleep aide he needs.

“A lot of things used to keep me up, but over the years I have learned that we are going to figure it out; we are going to make it,” he said. “PM Field Ops has been through a lot as an organization, and if there is one thing I have confidence in it is that whatever problems or issues we run into, we are going to come together as a team and work through them.”

Two members of the PM Field Ops team shared their thoughts on what makes their

organization a great place to work.

Marcia Kain, who has been with PM Field Ops for a year and serves as McBride’s executive administrative assistant, said she enjoys her work because of the people.

“We have a great group of people. It’s like a big family. We have monthly and annual events that are fun and keep the morale high,” she said. “Along with that, the work we do here is important because it directly impacts the Soldiers.”

A 13-year veteran of PM Field Ops, Linda Comfort, who serves as the assistant program manager for the Support Mission portfolio, agreed that it’s the people who make it a great organization in which to work.

“The thing I like most about working with PM Field Ops is the people we have on the team,” she said. “We have a great team and work on some pretty unique and challenging efforts in support of our customers.”

McBride has a wealth of experience that enables him to lead PM Field Ops through those efforts.

Prior to joining PEO STRI, he served on active duty for five years with the Air Force as

an inventory management specialist followed by a five year active duty stint with the Navy as an air traffic controller.

He was hired by PEO STRI (then called STRICOM) in 1994 right after completing a Navy intern program while working in the de Florez building.

“My first job was as the Multiple Integrated Laser Engagement System project director in what was then known as the logistics directorate,” McBride said. “I became the deputy program manager for Field Ops in September 2000 and held that position until December 2005 when I took over my current position.”

McBride takes great pride in the accomplishments of his team and what they are doing for the commanders in the field.

“What motivates me daily is knowing that PM Field Ops has had and continues to have a tremendously positive impact on our military’s commanders in theater and helping them get done what they need to do.”

He said they daily uphold the PM Field Ops’ motto: Support to the Warfighter, On Time, Anytime, Anywhere.

# Team Orlando News: A Passionate Leader Charts the Course for Local M&S Industry

By Dolly Glass, Team Orlando Public Relations

**The National Center for Simulation (NCS), a non-profit trade association based in Central Florida's Research Park, advocates and supports the modeling and simulation community. The organization, which advances simulation technology for military training and readiness, also offers education and business development opportunities. In January 2010, the association brought retired Air Force Lt. Gen. Tom Baptiste on board to serve as the president and executive director. Since taking charge, Baptiste has brought the organization to new heights.**

These days with the uncertainty in the fiscal environment heavy on the minds of the defense sector personnel in Central Florida, what is considered by many as the epicenter for modeling and simulation, National Center for Simulation's President and Executive Director Tom Baptiste is spending his days meeting with essential decision makers to relay the importance of modeling and simulation.

"What we do here in Orlando is provide cost-effective solutions to train the force," Baptiste said. "Those simulation and training technologies and devices that provide world class training to our Warfighters."

Before coming to NCS, Baptiste's experience with simulation was only that of a fighter pilot user. During his military career, Baptiste was first an F-4 pilot and later transitioned to flying the F-16. "The F-16 was a leap into the digital age," Baptiste said. "It was like getting out of an Oldsmobile and stepping into a Ferrari."

After two years as an F-16 instructor pilot and flight commander in the 62nd Tactical Fighter Training Squadron at MacDill Air Force Base in Tampa, Fla., he was promoted to the grade of major, and began a swift movement up the ranks.

By June 2004, Baptiste was promoted to lieutenant general and assigned as the deputy chairman of the NATO Military Committee, the highest military authority in NATO. The committee was responsible for direction and advice on military policy and strategy to the North Atlantic Council, guidance to the NATO strategic commanders and support to the development of strategic concepts for the alliance.

Today, Baptiste's passion and focus is on the challenges ahead for the modeling and simulation industry and how the Department of Defense budget cuts will play out. "We are at a critical time," Baptiste said. "As we look at the current budget environment, NCS is working

to promote what simulation can do to meet some of the readiness challenges in what will be a continuing austere budget environment, and this is a window of opportunity for our industry to continue to thrive.

"We have the best trained military in the world and part of that is the power of simulation," Baptiste said.

Recently, Baptiste, along with U.S. Congressman John Mica of the 7th District of Florida, and other industry partners and state and local representatives have made visits to Washington, D.C., to raise the visibility of Team Orlando and its simulation capabilities by highlighting what the military organizations

deliver to America and its Warfighters.

"Team Orlando is a strategic national resource that has grown and matured over the past 47-plus years," Baptiste said. "Co-location of the acquisition organizations in Research Park provides an environment for unprecedented collaboration and partnership between industry, academia and government, one the DoD should look to as a model for effective civilian-military cooperation."

*The article was reprinted from Team Orlando's newsletter, "10-4"; read the full story at <http://www.teamorlando.org/spotlight-ncs-leader-lt-gen-tom-baptiste-passionate-advocate/>.*



*Photo courtesy of the National Center for Simulation*

**Thomas L. Baptiste, president and executive director for the National Center for Simulation, Orlando, Fla.**

# Army Wins Top Award for Innovation

By Claire Heinger, Staff Writer for the U.S. Army Program Executive Office for Command, Control and Communications-Tactical

The U.S. Army has been named one of the world's most innovative research organizations, after earning more than 300 patents for new technologies in a three-year period.

The Army joins the ranks of private companies such as 3M, Apple, AT&T, Dow Chemical, DuPont and General Electric as one of the 2012 Top 100 Global Innovators named by Thomson Reuters, the multimedia and information conglomerate. The U.S. Navy was also named, making the two service branches the first government agencies to make the list.

"This recognition is shared with the members of our Army science and technology community who perform research relevant for the Army and our important mission, and provide the innovation that contributes to a strong national security posture," said Heidi Shyu, the assistant secretary of the Army for Acquisition, Logistics and Technology, who accepted the award on behalf of the service during a small ceremony at the Pentagon.

"Nearly 12,000 scientists and engineers perform their work daily knowing that it will benefit our Soldiers by providing them with the best technology available to successfully accomplish their mission," Shyu said.

The award focused on all organizations having 100 or more "innovative" patents, defined as the first publication in a patent document of a new technology, from 2009-2011. Thomson Reuters then used its proprietary methodology to measure the organizations' success on a variety of metrics, such as "influence," how often their research was cited by other innovators in their subsequent inventions and "success," the conversion rate of patent applications to granted patents.

The Army scored well in both of those categories, with more than 8,500 citations of its inventions published from 2007-2011, and 327 granted patents out of 436 published inventions from 2009-2011.

The Army also stood out for the broad range of subject matter covered in its inventions portfolio, ranging from training software that uses virtual robots to dispose of simulated explosives, to a folding shield that protects the operator of a tank weapon station, to a vaccine that guards against infection by the Ebola virus.

"This illustrates how we attack many Army-unique problems yet also contribute in wide-ranging areas," said Dale A. Ormond, director of the Army Research, Development



U.S. Army Photo

**The Hon. Heidi Shyu, assistant secretary of the Army for Acquisition, Logistics and Technology, accepts the award for the Army being named one of the world's most innovative research organizations during a ceremony at the Pentagon.**

and Engineering Command. "Our portfolio was heavy in weapons, ammunition and blasting, but also pharmaceutical products, polymers and computing."

More than 900 individuals contributed to the Army's patents, including personnel from RDECOM, the Army Corps of Engineers and the Army Medical Research and Materiel Command, as well as some of their partners from industry, government and academia.

Three of those individuals, representing all the Army innovators, were honored at the award ceremony, including Ronald E. Meyers of the Army Research Laboratory, who was the top innovator with 11 patents; John E. Nettleton of the Communications-Electronics Research, Development and Engineering Center; and Bartley P. Durst of the Engineer Research and Development Center, Corps of Engineers.

The recognition by Thomson Reuters illustrates the depth, skill and dedication of the Army science and technology community and the impact of their efforts both within and beyond the military, leaders said.

"Our people operate in the space between the 'state of the art' and the 'art of the possible,' where innovation is paramount and focused on addressing needs unique to the Army," Ormond

said. "We also develop technologies that have a major impact once they leave the military world. It's an incredible value for the taxpayer."

In a constrained budget environment, deliberate investment in science and technology is essential to drive continued innovation, Shyu said. The Army is developing a strategic plan that will protect and facilitate science and technology efforts that are essential to Army modernization, addressing the state of emerging and evolving threats, trends in commercial technology, current and emerging equipment requirements, and research in core priorities that address Army-unique challenges.

While it is difficult to predict future technology developments, leaders expressed confidence in the Army workforce to continue accelerating innovation to give Soldiers the decisive edge.

"Army science and technology cannot survive without innovative scientists and engineers," said Mary J. Miller, deputy assistant secretary of the Army for Research and Technology. "We are lucky to have an amazing group of scientists and engineers to invent, innovate, mature and demonstrate technology that provides increased capability to the warfighter."

# TEAM ORLANDO IN PHOTOS



*U.S. Army PEO STRI Photo/Doug Schaub*

The Army team defeats the Navy 37-28 in the March 8 SHAPE basketball game held annually at the University of Central Florida.



*U.S. Army PEO STRI Photo/Doug Schaub*

Members of Team Orlando participate in Diversity Day April 11 in Warfighter Park to recognize different cultures around the world represented in the workforce.



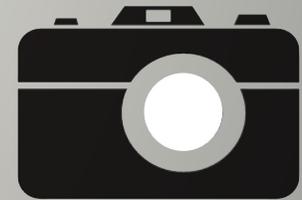
*U.S. Army PEO STRI Photo/Doug Schaub*

University of Central Florida students present members of PM ITTS with possible design solutions for the Joint Urban Test Capability program.



*U.S. Army PEO STRI Photo/Doug Schaub*

Lt. Gen. William N. Phillips, principal military deputy to the Assistant Secretary of the Army for Acquisition, Logistics and Technology, visits PEO STRI March 8 and receives a demonstration by PM TRADE on a variety of live training devices.



Just Twistin' Hay, a traditional Celtic music group featuring band member Lisa Clipp of PM ITTS, perform March 7 at the quarterly Town Hall Meeting themed with Irish music, imagery and events in celebration of St. Patrick's Day.

*U.S. Army PEO STRI Photo/Doug Schaub*

