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WORTH REPEATING

“When you have a large country – 300 million Americans – and only one percent are wearing the uniform at any given time, there is always the danger that the American people and the United States Army become separated from each other. If there is any message today, the message is (that) the reason why the Army is so good at what it does is because it is made in America. It is made from Americans. It is made by Americans. And, it really is America.”

— **Maj. Gen. Mark Yenter**, commanding general of the Maneuver Support Center of Excellence and Fort Leonard Wood, Mo., at the opening ceremonies of a Springfield Cardinals game, June 16, 2012.



U.S. Army Photo/Staff Sgt. Kenneth Pawlak

Soldiers from 2nd Battalion, 9th Infantry Regiment, 1st Brigade Combat Team, 2nd Infantry Division, serve as the opposing force during the blended training event at the Twin Bridges Training Area in the Republic of Korea, April 28.

NEW APPROACH REVOLUTIONIZES TRAINING

By Kristen A. McCullough, PEO STRI Public Affairs

The 17,000 Soldiers that make up the U.S. Army's 2nd Infantry Division were initially situated on the Korean Peninsula to face any threat posed by the communist government of North Korea, but many of them have recently found themselves deployed to Afghanistan engaging in irregular warfare.

According to their website, the 2nd Infantry Division seeks to “deter aggression and maintain peace on the Korean Peninsula, [but] if deterrence fails, [they will] fight tonight.”

When it comes to training, these warriors—requiring a broad skill set to respond to an array of military operations—have one small problem. As the Army's last remaining permanently forward-stationed division, the Soldiers of the 2nd Infantry Division have not been able to conduct realistic

battalion-level field training due to the lack of Combat Training Center-like facilities in their vicinity.

Space is also an issue. The relatively small area where they are located on the southern region of the Korean peninsula presents an immensely constrained area in which to train, especially considering the broad range of missions that they are called on to perform.

To help mitigate the training problem, PEO STRI set up the first-ever, fully integrated blended training exercise for the 1st Brigade Combat Team and their counterparts, the Republic of Korea Army's 125th Mechanized Battalion and 27th Tank Battalion.

During the week-long training exercise held April 26 through May 3, Soldiers conducted combined maneuver training at the Twin

Bridges Training Area, mounted and dismounted maneuvers at the Rodriguez Digital Multi-purpose Range Complex, and operated on the Close Combat Tactical Trainer simulators and Virtual Battlespace 2 gaming systems on Camp Casey.

“This is the first time a battalion has done live, virtual and constructive training together on this scale,” Sgt. 1st Class James Mintz, an observer trainer, said. “The executing unit in the field saw a seamless picture on their battle systems. What was happening in the CCTT and on VBS2 was what the Soldiers in the field were experiencing.”

Through this Combat Training Center-like training exercise, the 2nd Infantry Division validated their warfighting readiness through a mix of live, virtual, constructive and game-based systems, which

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were integrated to produce a full-scale training scenario. Although this collective training environment saves money on maintenance, fuel and ammunition, and enhances Soldier safety by replicating dangerous missions in a controlled environment, a training event of this magnitude has never been conducted before, and not even in the U.S.

That's about to change, however. While a team of experts at PEO STRI connected a

mix of training devices together to make this training dream a reality for the Soldiers of the 2nd Infantry Division, another group of experts from PEO STRI is paving the way for a persistent integrated and interoperable training capability.

This plug-and-play approach, formally called the Live, Virtual, Constructive-Integrating Architecture, or LVC-IA for short, is a deliberate method of linking simulations

together to ensure that different training systems can interoperate with one another.

Although LVC-IA will not replace a unit's preparation at one of the three Combat Training Centers, it helps to achieve the Army's priority to create a more robust homestation training capability.

LCV-IA will be fielded to 18 sites around the Army, and the first of which will be coming to Fort Hood, Texas, this summer.

THREE-STAR GENERAL APPRECIATES TRAINING EVENT



U.S. Army Photo

Gen. James Thurman, commander of the United Nations Command, the Republic of Korea Combined Forces Command and U.S. Forces Korea, and Dr. Jim Blake meet during the blended training exercise in Korea.



May 2, 2012

Dr. James Blake
Program Executive Officer for Simulation,
Training & Instrumentation
12350 Research Parkway
Orlando, FL 32817

Jim
Dear Dr. Blake:

Thank you again for your continued support and the tremendous job you and your team did for the 2nd Infantry Division in support of their Culminating Training Exercise.

Your experience, insight, and leadership were central to the success of this critical training event.

I look forward to continuing to work closely with you and your team during future exercises. Pacific Victors!

*Great to see you
again. Thanks for
all your help --
making huge strides
with this team.*

Sincerely,

JD
JOHN D. JOHNSON
Lieutenant General, USA
Commanding



U.S. Army Photo/PEO STRI

PEO STRI leaders, Col. Francisco Espallat, Dr. Jim Blake, Col. Mike Flanagan and Russ McBride, support the blended training exercise in Korea April 26 through May 3.

PEO STRI WELCOMES NEW ITTS LEADER, DONOVAN, BIDS FAREWELL TO ZARBO

By Rick Gregory, APEO Business Operations Support Staff

In a change of charter ceremony conducted May 11, PEO STRI welcomed Col. Sharlene Donovan as the new project manager for PM ITTS and acknowledged the outgoing project manager, Col. Mike Zarbo, for his accomplishments during his tenure.

Donovan joins PEO STRI after serving in Washington, D.C., on the Department of Defense joint staff.

This is Donovan's second assignment with PEO STRI, the first being when she joined the team in 2000 as a major, serving as the assistant program manager for Special Operations Aviation Combat Mission Simulators when the command was known as STRICOM.

Zarbo, who assumed the charter for PM ITTS in May 2009, deployed this month for a 14-month assignment in Kuwait where he will serve as the forward-deployed senior acquisition corps adviser for the U.S. Army Central Command. This marks the second time he served in this role in Kuwait.

Having also served with PEO STRI as an assistant product manager and a product manager with PM TRADE, Zarbo said he leaves with a heavy heart because

he has "worked shoulder-to-shoulder with phenomenally gifted and really good people."

Calling his stint as the project manager for PM ITTS the highlight of his Army career, he said he will especially miss his "brother" project managers at PEO STRI.

"We share a very special bond that I don't think is very well known or understood by many," he explained. "We worked exceptionally well together, always knew what was going on within each others' PM shops and covered for each other whenever it was needed."

He also gave high praise to each of his three management offices.

Zarbo said his Orlando-based Instrumentation Management Office is doing a "tremendous job" overseeing the Range Radar Replacement Program, one of PEO STRI's most complex undertakings. "The team just continues to exceed everyone's expectations," he said.

The Target Management Office, located in Huntsville, Ala., recently won the 2011 Army Value Engineering Award, tapping them as the most outstanding program/project of the year. "They have gained the notoriety of being very cost conscious and they just



PEO STRI Photo/Doug Schaub

Col. Mike Zarbo and Col. Sharlene Donovan congratulate each other after the PM ITTS change of charter ceremony May 11 as Mr. Rob Reyenga, PEO STRI's deputy program executive officer, applauds them.

continue to show great business acumen," Zarbo said.

Called the "Cyber Warriors," Zarbo said the Threat Systems Management Office, also located in Huntsville, recently became the first non-service level threat team to be certified through the National Security Agency and are the only U.S. Army acquisition group to hold the certification.

"They have, without question, developed into the premier face for what the right way for conducting cyber security should look like," he said of the team.

Zarbo, who plans on retiring

within a few months of returning from his assignment in Kuwait, has a burning desire to continue working with Soldiers after taking off the uniform.

"I want to pursue whatever it takes for me to get involved in helping disadvantaged Soldiers who have developed mental, physical or emotional issues related to the toll combat has taken on them," he explained. "I want whatever I do to be associated with helping Soldiers, giving them some kind of advantage. That's non-negotiable. That's what I was put on this planet to do."

A FRESH PERSPECTIVE: DEPUTY SWAP FOR ITTS AND CONSIM

In addition to the colonel-level change in leadership for PM ITTS, the senior-ranking civilian within the shop has changed places with his counterpart in PM ConSim.

In April, after 14 years of serving as the deputy project manager for PM ITTS, Jerry Sirmans switched positions with the deputy project manager for PM ConSim, Rick Copeland,

who served in that capacity for eight years and worked in ConSim for more than half of his 27-year career.

"Dr. Blake gave us the opportunity to serve in a new senior leader role that allows us both to share our experiences, expertise and insights between PMs with contrasting product lines," Copeland said.

The transition is in line with the Acquisition Workforce

Development Strategic Plan for Civilian Agencies that cites, "Career development and retention strategies must include opportunities for professionals to learn new technical and interpersonal skills. Rotational assignments are an excellent way to do this."

"Prior to my assignment as the deputy for PM ITTS, I changed positions often and worked for

numerous organizations across the U.S. and Korea. By a large measure, you cannot beat the quality of life, relevance of mission and great, positive co-workers that I find here at PEO STRI. I would have to think very hard indeed about rotating anywhere else if I could not get any future development needs met here at PEO STRI," Sirmans noted, and Copeland agreed.

TRAINING PROVES EMPLOYEE RELATIONS ARE KEY TO WORKPLACE SUCCESS

By Kimberly A. Tedeschi, PEO STRI Acquisition Center Business Operations Team Lead

PEO STRI's Acquisition Center personnel learned about the generational differences that exist between employees that could affect workplace productivity during a May 17 presentation called, "Leading Your New Professionals," given by Defense Acquisition University professor of contract management, Michelle Currier.

Joe Giunta, PEO STRI's principal assistant responsible for contracting and director of the Acquisition Center, heard this presentation in February at the World Congress workshop. He said the training was applicable to his workforce, and soon hosted Currier to provide the same training session for his employees' professional development.

"Over the last few years, we have made significant efforts to recruit and integrate a junior workforce in the Acquisition Center through an aggressive developmental employee recruiting program," Giunta said. "These efforts have resulted in a workforce that is now comprised of a varying mix

of experience.

"About 30 percent of our contracting professionals have less than three years of experience, and as you can imagine, this has resulted in generational differences among the workforce. This training opportunity was an effort to expose our workforce to these facts and highlight the ways that we can take advantage of them by leveraging the positive ideas back into our organization."

The Acquisition Center, much like many divisions across PEO STRI, has a workforce comprised of a large cross-section of generational backgrounds that have varying values and experiences. Currier pointed out that workforce conflicts often arise from simple misunderstandings, and said it is important to be aware of and sensitive toward differences that exist due to generational gaps.

Acquisition Center employees agree that they learned important lessons from the workshop, and said they look forward to applying it to their everyday workplace interactions.

THE GENERATIONS OF WORKERS DECODED

Five different generations of employees exist in today's workplace. Understanding the differences among these groups could help with employee interactions.

- **Silent Generation (1926 – 1945):** stable, joiners, doers, retiring.
- **Boomers (1946 – 1964):** "change the world" outlook, "us," second career, generational guilt.
- **Generation X (1965 – 1975):** cynical, deliberate connections, "me," "change the neighborhood" outlook.
- **Millennials (1976 – 1990):** largest generation, connected, "we," informal, scheduled, strong parental connections.
- **Gamers (1991 – present):** uber connected, technological social interaction, children of Generation X.



U.S. Army Photo/PEO STRI

Acquisition Center employees representing three of the five different generations, as identified in the "Leading Your New Professionals" presentation, attend the professional development seminar.



U.S. Army Photo/PEO STRI

Defense Acquisition University professor Michelle Currier hosts the "Leading Your New Professionals," workshop May 17 for PEO STRI Acquisition Center employees.



PEO STRI SEES STARS AS ONE OF ITS OWN IS SELECTED FOR PROMOTION TO GENERAL OFFICER

By Kristen A. McCullough, PEO STRI Public Affairs Officer

“Each and everyone one of my PM CATT teammates earned a piece of the star from my upcoming promotion,” Col. Francisco Espailat, who will soon pin on as a brigadier general, said about the quality of his staff at PEO STRI. Espailat credits the PM CATT training systems with helping him become selected for promotion into the general officer corps.

Espailat, only the third colonel to rise to the ranks of general directly from his assignment at PEO STRI, said he was surprised by the Army’s selection of him for promotion into this elite corps of officers.

“I had my retirement orders in hand, but the Army had different plans for me,” Espailat said smiling, “and for this, I am truly thankful.” Coming from a unique category as an Army Reservist who served the past 17 years on active duty in the Acquisition Corps, Espailat noted that he was not a likely candidate for promotion to general. He said he feels that he is receiving this recognition from a combination of his 26 years of service, and especially for his four-year tenure in his most recent assignment as the project manager for PM CATT.

“The main reason I believe I was selected for promotion to general,” he said, “was because of the work PM CATT’s doing to support an Army at war. Our Soldiers depend on our systems to develop and sustain their warfighting skills.”

The announcement of Espailat’s promotion came just days before he and a team of simulation and gaming experts supported the first-ever blended



PEO STRI Photo/Doug Schaub

Col. Francisco Espailat and his wife attend the Army’s 237th Birthday Ball in Orlando, Fla., days before he reports to his one-star general position at the Defense Logistics Agency at Fort Belvoir, Va.

training event for the troops stationed in the peninsula of Korea. The exercise showcased the interoperability of live, virtual, constructive and game-based training systems, which fills a very urgent need for the Soldiers of the 2nd Infantry Division who need to train for a full spectrum of military operations in a highly constrained maneuver training space in South Korea.

“The LVC-G training event was a resounding success as it helped the Army to realize what’s in the realm of the possible when you leverage all the training environments and gaming technology available to our Soldiers,” Espailat explained.

Espailat said he believes the single biggest advantage provided by today’s simulation and gaming systems, however, is the ability to conduct geo-specific training through the Synthetic Core Environment, known as SE Core for short, and gaming terrain databases to conduct mission planning and mission rehearsal training.

“Just imagine the power of being able to conduct training missions and exercises at homestation anywhere in the United States on geo-specific terrain databases on the very ground that you are going to deploy to in Afghanistan or anywhere the Army deploys,” he said. “Geo-specific training

is truly a powerful training multiplier that our Soldiers fully appreciate.”

One simulation that leverages geo-specific gaming databases is the Dismounted Soldier Training System, a squad-level immersive trainer set to be fielded this summer to Fort Benning, Ga.

Espailat has also led the charge in groundbreaking medical simulation efforts. In addition to the life-saving training that the Medical Simulation Training Centers provide to more than 150,000 Soldiers annually, PM CATT’s MedSim team is working with the office of the assistant secretary of defense for health affairs on standing up a colonel level, joint medical simulation office. The inter-service acquisition organization will support the joint community as a center of excellence for medical simulation. The office is envisioned to be a part of PEO STRI, with the top-level position rotating between each of the military services.

Under Espailat’s tenure in PM CATT, he has also assisted the MedSim team garner attention on the interagency and even international level. In May 2011, PEO STRI signed an agreement with the Department of Veterans Health Affairs to provide cutting-edge, simulation-based training for medical staffs to enhance the quality of patient care at 156 VA medical facilities across the nation. More recently, the MedSim team has been selected by NATO to build an MSTC-like training capability geared especially for special operations training.

Beyond the advancements

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“PM CATT and PEO STRI have some of the finest Acquisition Corps professionals that I have had the privilege to serve with in my 17-plus years in the corps. It starts at the top with our PEO, Dr. Blake, our project managers and their organizations, the staff and the PARC and his staff. They are all simply the best professionals I could have possibly hoped to work with as a project manager.”

—Col. Francisco Espailat, project manager for PM CATT

SIMULATORS PLAY A LARGE ROLE IN DETERMINING ARMY'S TOP ARMOR CREW AT SULLIVAN CUP

By Rick Gregory, APEO Business Operations Support Staff

Army units from around the U.S. and overseas participated in the first-ever Sullivan Cup Precision Gunnery Competition conducted May 7-11, 2012, by the Maneuver Center of Excellence (MCoE) at Fort Benning, Ga. Training simulators fielded by PEO STRI played a major role in the competition.

The event, which MCoE said it plans to hold annually and open to inter-service and international competition, is named for retired Gen. Gordon R. Sullivan, the 32nd Army chief of staff and the current president of the Association of the United States Army.

A tank crew from Company D, 1st Battalion, 6th Infantry Regiment at Fort Bliss, Texas, lived up to their unit's motto of "Unity is Strength" when competing against 14 other four-man armor crews for the coveted title of Top Armor Crew in the U.S. Army.

Their unity as a team provided them the strength to come out as the winners in the competition that included a physical fitness test, a live fire exercise and a day using training simulators to demonstrate their skills as a tank crew.

Testing their individual skills that are critical for the success of the crew, drivers and loaders competed on the Engagement Skills Trainer (EST) and Common Driver Trainer (CDT) while tank commanders and gunners were tested on the Advanced Gunnery Training System (AGTS). After that, each four-man crew competed as a team in the Close Combat Tactical Trainer (CCTT).

PEO STRI also had a role in the live fire competition as the crews demonstrated their collective skills on the Digital Multi-Purpose Range Complex (DMPRC), part of the Digital Range Training System fielded by PM TRADE.

Sgt. 1st Class Ryan Dilling, the tank commander for the winning crew, gave high marks to the DMPRC.

"Digital ranges are capable of providing very critical feedback to the crews for their after-action reviews," he said. "Some crews don't like the 'big brother' aspect because they know someone is watching over their shoulder, but the way I see it is if you are doing all the right things, then why worry?"

"The video feed from the sights are very valuable also," he added. "It helps to develop the gunners into lethal gunners."

When speaking of training simulators in general, the tank commander said while nothing can compare to real combat, the simulators provide Soldiers with common scenarios they would face at gunnery and while deployed.

"The simulators are a very valuable asset to help train and hone our skills inside the tank," he explained. "For new crews with little experience, they are especially valuable as they provide them the needed training before going out into the field or through gunnery. Overall, they are a good asset to have and use."

Staff Sgt. Kevin O'Connell, a master gunner who helped coach the winning crew throughout the competition, echoed Dilling's sentiments about the simulators.

"I find them to be extremely valuable in training," he said. "I have always found the AGTS to be a great system for training gunners, especially new ones, on their station and gunnery skills. When used correctly, it does a great job of getting the tank commander and gunner teams accustomed to working with each other. It also helps to get them familiar with the proper procedures for executing

fire commands and engaging the enemy."

He added that he especially likes the CCTT because it gets the crew together in the same simulator and it provides a means for platoons and companies to maneuver. He said if he could change one thing about the CCTT, it would be to make the feel of the ride over the terrain more realistic.

As a master gunner, he found the enhanced after-action review provided by the digital ranges to be a great addition.

"The video and audio for the crew and chain of command is a great benefit and are important for unit improvement," he explained. "Any tool that makes the after-action review more effective is great."



U.S. Army Photo/Fort Benning Public Affairs Office

The winning crew of the 2012 Sullivan Cup competition holds their Colt .45 pistols awarded to them. The crew members from Fort Bliss, Texas, are (left to right) Sgt. 1st Class Ryan Dilling, Sgt. Zachary Shaffer, Pfc. Kyle Braun and Pfc. Mark Backer.



Defense Secretary Participates in Dismounted Soldier Demo

By Vince Little, The Bayonet Writer-Editor

The Department of Defense's top civilian leader saw first hand Soldiers training on the Dismounted Soldier Training System May 4 at Fort Benning, Ga.

Leon Panetta, the 23rd Secretary of Defense, was briefed by Maneuver Center of Excellence leaders and observed training across the installation, including demonstrations at the Clarke Simulation Center on Harmony Church involving dismounted squads, advanced situational awareness and leader immersion on the ELITE system. He also toured the National Infantry Museum and ate lunch with junior enlisted Soldiers.

The capstone event of Panetta's daylong stop took place at McGinnis-Wickam Hall, where he addressed about 1,300 troops from the 3rd Heavy Brigade Combat Team (HBCT) in an all-hands session at Marshall Auditorium. The Sledgehammer Brigade, which deployed four times to Iraq, is gearing up for a mission in Kuwait.

"The main reason I'm here today is to thank you for making the decision to step forward and serve this country," he said. "This nation depends on men and women in uniform who are willing to put their lives on the line in order to give our children a better and more secure life. We depend on you to make sure that you protect this country (and) keep America safe."

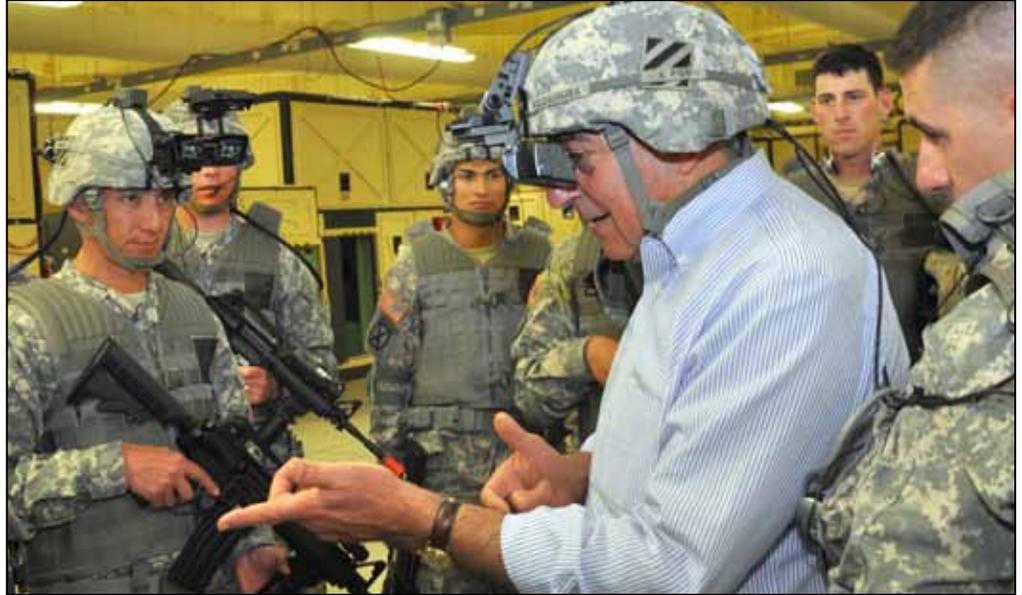
Panetta is a former congressman who also served as White House chief of staff under President Bill Clinton. He was the CIA director prior to taking over as defense secretary last summer.

He has roots at Fort Benning. As an Army officer, he completed 10 weeks of infantry training there in 1964.

"It's been a great treat to be able to be with you and relive some old memories, and see a lot of new things that make Fort Benning the best installation in the world," he told the audience. "Like you, I had the opportunity to come here in a previous capacity as a young Army lieutenant. I've been through the swamps, I've been through the red mud, (and) I've been through the humidity. Yes, I have lots of warm memories of Fort Benning."

Panetta expressed gratitude to military families for their dedication, sacrifice and loyalty to the nation, calling them "part and parcel" to the American fighting force.

The 3rd HBCT participated in the initial drive into Baghdad in 2003, endured the insurgency's worst days and assumed an advise-and-assist



U.S. Army Photo/Lori Egan

Secretary of Defense Leon Panetta uses Sgt. Alden Rodrigues' helmet-mounted display, which is tethered to his CPU backpack, to experience the Dismounted Soldier Training System. The Soldiers, with Headquarters and Headquarters Company's Sniper Section, 2nd Battalion, 69th Armor Regiment, 3rd Heavy Brigade Combat Team, demonstrated the DSTS at the Clarke Simulation Center May 4, 2012, during the secretary's visit to Fort Benning, Ga.

role during Operation New Dawn. The brigade lost 77 Soldiers in Iraq.

"Many of you deployed there; many of you lost brothers and sisters in that fight," the secretary said. "We will never forget these brave men and women, nor will we ever forget what they accomplished. Because of their sacrifice, the American people are safer today. Because of all that you've accomplished, we were able to bring the Iraq war to a responsible and honorable conclusion last December."

Military leaders now intend to do the same in Afghanistan, he said.

"The Taliban has been weakened," he said. "They've been unable to organize an effort to regain any of the territory that's been lost and their momentum has been broken."

President Barack Obama recently signed a strategic partnership agreement with Afghan President Hamid Karzai in Kabul. By the end of this summer, 80 percent of the Afghan population will be under Afghanistan's security and control, Panetta said.

"It sends a clear signal to our enemies and to our partners that we will finish the job right in Afghanistan," he said. "We have an enduring commitment to Afghanistan and the Afghan people."

The secretary said long-term success in Afghanistan will eliminate the safe haven al-Qaida used to attack America and deny the group any ability to rebuild.

The enemy, however, has attempted to capitalize on a recent series of "troubling incidents" involving alleged misconduct by U.S. troops in Afghanistan, Panetta said. He said those individuals don't represent the vast majority of people in uniform but urged all military members to consistently display the highest standards of character, discipline and professionalism.

"The reality is we're fighting a different kind of war and living in a different kind of world," he said. "These days, it takes only seconds for a picture or photo to suddenly become an international headline. And those headlines can impact the mission we're engaged in. It can put your fellow service members at risk and it can cost lives."

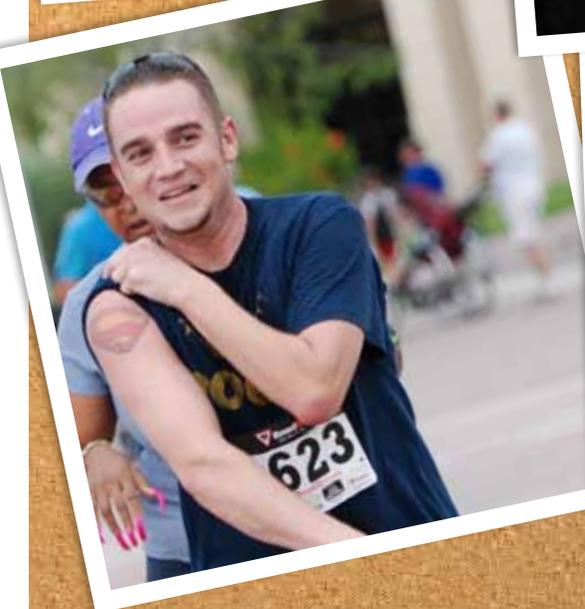
"Our enemies will seek to turn these incidents in their favor at the very moment that they are losing the war. I want all of you to always remember who you are—you are part of the best fighting force on the face of the Earth. Never forget that."

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OPERATION
GIVEBACK



5K/10K
OPERATION
GIVEBACK
RUN
WALK
ROLL
MAY 2012

Proceeds from the race go to the Wounded Warrior Project, CFC #11425



TOP LEADER RETIRES AFTER THREE DECADES OF SERVICE

By Kristen A. McCullough, PEO STRI Public Affairs Officer

One of PEO STRI's senior executives desired to have, what he called, a "small, intimate" retirement ceremony, but the gathering May 31 turned out to be everything but that. Representatives across Team Orlando, industry and PEO STRI packed into the Bishop Conference Room to bid farewell to Pete Marion, the assistant program executive officer for customer support, after 32 years of combined military and civil service to the Army.

"Well as many of you can imagine, today's a very bittersweet day for PEO STRI as we say so long to a devoted leader, a recognized professional and, most importantly, a great American. And to me, a close colleague and friend," Dr. Jim Blake said during his remarks at the ceremony.

Marion assumed leadership of the Customer Support Group in 2004 just after the Simulation and Training Command transitioned into PEO STRI. He was the first to hold this position within the organization.

"Since Pete took on this role, he remained committed to the advancement of the organization," Blake said. "Because of his unwavering work ethic, dedicated staff and



U.S. Army Photo/PEO STRI
Pete Marion

sharp business acumen, he bolstered PEO STRI's reputation across the Army, thereby strengthening the training for our Soldiers."

Examples of Marion's devotion to Soldiers can be found in both his professional and

personal life.

While serving at PEO STRI, Marion led the charge to get unmanned aerial vehicle trainers into the hands of deploying National Guard troops. He was also the visionary behind the Army Games for Training program, seeing the opportunity game-based training solutions could offer the young generation of combat-bound Soldiers.

"Pete played an instrumental role in making our PEO the professional, highly dynamic organization it is today. He put into motion an aggressive outreach campaign to support the Warfighter across the full spectrum of operations, which heightened our visibility across the Army and beyond," Blake noted.

Outside of work, Marion and his wife Carol spent many hours supporting the local Association of the U.S. Army chapter and providing assistance to wounded warriors.

"After 32 extraordinary years of support to our Army and our Nation—on both professional and personal levels—we bid you a sincere farewell and rest assured that you will continue to do great things for our nation," Blake said to Marion upon his retirement.

Hurricane Season Requires Your Preparation

By Max Maxfield, Army News Service



U.S. Army Photo/Lori Egan

Hurricane season arrived June 1, and all citizens, especially those residing on the Gulf Coast and Eastern Seaboard, are advised to review their emergency plans to ensure they safely weather the season.

Now that hurricane season has arrived, residents should assess their severe weather preparedness.

There are resources around the web that can help people prepare for worst-case scenarios. Ready Army, Ready America and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) have tools available on their websites that can help families make emergency plans, protect their property from damage, and build "bug-out bags" in case Mother Nature takes aim at their homes.

As Floridians are all too familiar, hurricanes can destroy homes and even take out an entire city or region. Families should plan ahead for

emergencies and have emergency supplies ready for a sustained loss of support from outside agencies. Families should not count on immediate support from local authorities if a hurricane cripples an entire area. Hurricane Katrina is an example of how one storm can overwhelm the support system families might think they can rely on for assistance.

Army families, although they can hope that they are not affected by a hurricane this season, should be prepared for the worst-case-scenario.

HAVE A PLAN

Families should have an emergency

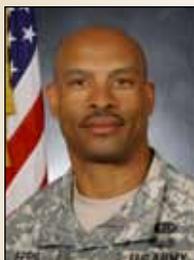
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"If you were a Soldier training for deployment, what would be your PEO STRI product of choice, and why?"



"My product of choice would be the Integrated Threat Force provided by the Threat Systems Management Office of PM ITTS. While not currently a training capability, it provides a suite of tools representative of realistic and relevant threat Electronic Warfare and Computer Network Operations. This environment can be configured to represent any threat force, which is important as the Army conducts operations against an adaptive and information-savvy enemy."

- **Col. Sharlene Donovan**, PM ITTS



"The Intelligence Electronic Warfare Tactical Proficiency Trainer would be my essential training choice. In the recent Iraq and Afghanistan conflicts, our undertakings have made us realize that personal interaction with locals is a powerful tool. Soldiers are not only required to interact with their U.S. and coalition forces, but also with indigenous occupants."

- **Col. Wayne Epps**, PM ConSim



"As a former Soldier, I trained on the Reconfigurable Vehicle Tactical Trainer while stationed at Fort Hood, Texas. The Reconfigurable Vehicle Simulator prepared my unit to train on a HMMWV in a realistic reconnaissance convoy environment. It also taught us how to properly dismount the vehicle to engage threats and maneuver IEDs. This product helps save Soldiers lives while conducting convoy missions in a hostile environment."

- **Lawence Green**, PSG



"I would try to get time on everything they would let me use, but primarily the EST 2000. With your life on the line, you want to have as much experience as possible with your weapon."

- **Steve Honda**, Acq. Center



"As a Marine that has deployed, I would have to say the EST 2000. Every Soldier/Marine is a rifleman first; it is the core of what we are trained to do. The realism of the EST 2000 is unmatched by any marksmanship trainer I have ever used, which makes it that much more valuable before deployment."

- **Dion Jaglal**, PSG

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

What's your top travel destination and why?

Send your response to Kristen.McCullough@us.army.mil and put Citizen STRI in the subject line.

PEO STRI SEES STARS: *continued from page 5*

that were made in medical training under Espailat's lead, equally important progress was made in aviation training. Specifically, PM CATT was provided funding to upgrade the Army's Aviation Combined Arms Tactical Trainer mobile training suites to maintain concurrency with current tactical aviation platforms. "This all stemmed from our newly forged relationship with PEO Aviation," Espailat said.

"The reason we are recognized as the

best Army in the world is not because we have the best systems—and by the way, we do have the best systems in the world!" he said. "Instead, it is because we provide our Soldiers with the best training in the world that gives our Army the edge over all the other armies."

Espailat departs June 29 for his new position with the Defense Logistics Agency headquartered at Fort Belvoir, Va., where he will serve as the executive director on the

joint staff for logistics operations.

"Many great Soldiers don't get the opportunity to be promoted to general officer, so I'm truly humbled and honored to have been given this opportunity," Espailat said, citing that less than one percent of officers become generals. "The Army has provided me an opportunity to serve as a one-star general, and now I have to prove the Army right for its confidence in my ability to serve as a general officer."

DEFENSE SECRETARY PARTICIPATES: *continued from page 7*

Panetta praised the Sledgehammer Brigade for its commitment to duty and always representing the American people with integrity and exceptional conduct on the

battlefield.

"All of us have to be willing to fight to make this country great," he said. "The Hammer Brigade has always been willing to fight to

keep America safe, make sure our kids have a better life, but most importantly, to always make sure we have a government of, by and for the people."

HURRICANE SEASON REQUIRES: *continued from page 9*

plan. All family members should know what to do in case of an emergency. Ready Army suggests families discuss issues such as where children will go if they are in school at the time of an emergency. While phone lines and cell phones may not work, text messaging sometimes works even if cell phone lines are overwhelmed with calls.

Families should ensure their plans include how they will evacuate family members with special needs, as well as pets. All members of a family should have an in-case-of-emergency point of contact in the event that they cannot reach each other. A trusted relative living outside of the area expected to be affected by the storm would be a good candidate. A local point of contact should also be established. These names and phone numbers should be programmed into all family members' cell phones and written copies should be with all family members as well.

EVALUATE THE RISK

According to the NOAA, a hurricane watch indicates hurricane conditions, specifically sustained winds of 74 mph or higher, are possible within a certain area. A hurricane watch is issued 48 hours in advance of when the NOAA expects the onset of tropical storm force winds.

The watch is issued well in advance of the storm so that families have time to properly prepare. Once the tropical storm force winds arrive, making final preparations could be difficult. Families should prepare in advance.

A hurricane warning also means hurricane conditions are expected within an area, however it is issued 36 hours before the expected onset of tropical storm force winds.

HOW BAD IS BAD?

It is useful to know just how strong a hurricane will be when it reaches an area. Hurricane strength is rated by category levels from one to five.

Category 1 hurricanes typically result in minimal damage to plants and signs, while Category 2 storms yield some flooding and minimal damage to mobile homes, roofs and small crafts. A Category 3 hurricane could bring extensive damage to small buildings and low-lying roofs. Category 4 storms typically produce extensive damage to homes, downed trees, blocked roads and flooded homes. A Category 5 storm has catastrophic consequences.

KNOW YOUR VULNERABILITIES

Families should find out if they live within an evacuation area. Because hurricanes can travel inland for hundreds of miles before losing their energy, people living inland in front of an approaching storm may still be at risk.

Families should know if their home or property is vulnerable to a storm surge, flooding from either rain or swollen rivers nearby or wind. The most well-stocked disaster supply kit cannot help a family if it was stored in a basement that flooded.

PROTECT YOUR HOME

Families can take steps to minimize the damage caused to their home and protect themselves financially should the storm damage their property. Families in coastal areas should consider flood insurance. According to Ready America, flood insurance is the only way for people to financially protect themselves if their homes or businesses are damaged by a flood.

Families can also take precautions to protect their homes from an impending

hurricane, and ensure a decent quality of life in the aftermath of a storm. You should consider the following safety measures:

- Cover your home's windows with plywood or hurricane shutters.
- Bring in all outdoor furniture, decorations, garbage cans and anything else that is not tied down.
- Keep all trees and shrubs well trimmed.
- Turn off utilities as instructed, but turn the refrigerator thermostat to its coldest setting and keep its doors closed.
- Turn off propane tanks.
- Install a generator.
- Reinforce your garage doors.
- Ensure a supply of water for sanitary purposes such as cleaning and flushing toilets. Fill the bathtub and other large containers with water.
- Find out how to keep food safe during and after an emergency by visiting www.FoodSafety.gov.

BUILD A "BUG-OUT BAG"

When the order comes to evacuate, families should evacuate immediately. It is possible that a family not in an area under evacuation order may still have to leave their home if it suffers an unexpectedly high amount of damage. In these situations, prepared families can grab their "bug-out bags" and make it to safe areas before less prepared people. This little bit of preparation can pay off in the quality of life a family has in the days following a disaster.

- A home emergency kit should have the following items:
- Water—at least one gallon per

Continued on page 12



person per day for at least three days.

- Food—nonperishable food for at least three days.
- Manual can opener.
- Reusable plates, cups, utensils, saucepan.
- First aid kit.
- Prescription medications.
- Personal sanitation supplies.
- Hand-crank or battery operated flashlight.
- Hand-crank radio or battery operated cell phone charger.
- All-hazards weather radio.
- Extra batteries.
- Cord to charge a cell phone from AC outlet in vehicle.
- Brightly colored plastic ponchos.
- Weather appropriate clothing to keep your family warm and dry.
- Cash.
- Local maps and your family emergency plan.
- Your command reporting information.
- Important documents, including will, medical and financial power of attorney, property documents, medical instructions.

Additional emergency kit items your family might need to consider:

- Infant formula and diapers.
- Pets supplies, including food,

water, medication, leash, travel case and documents.

- Disinfectant.
- Matches or flint in a waterproof container.
- Sleeping bag or other weather-appropriate bedding for each person.
- Coats, jackets and rain gear.
- Fire extinguisher.
- Paper and pencil.

- Books, games, puzzles, toys and other activities.

No one can stop Mother Nature, however having a plan, knowing the risk, taking precautions and preparing for the worst-case scenario can reduce the risk of getting seriously affected by a hurricane.

Prepared families can weather a storm well, even if local, state, or federal agencies cannot help them immediately after a hurricane hits.

**HOLIDAYS
Events**

JULY 4
Independence Day Holiday

JULY 6
Colors Ceremony

JULY 16
Acquisition Academy Class Begins

JULY 20
Leadership Development Seminar

INSIDE PEO STRI

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TEAM ORLANDO IN PHOTOS



U.S. Army Photo/PEO STRI

Laura Cushler, who serves as one of PEO STRI's attorneys, is promoted to the rank of colonel during a May 31 ceremony presided over by Dr. Jim Blake, program executive officer for PEO STRI.



U.S. Army Photo/PEO STRI

Kim Denver (center), deputy assistant secretary of the Army for procurement, visits PEO STRI May 25 and participates in a meeting with leaders from the PEO STRI Acquisition Center.



U.S. Army Photo/PEO STRI

Mr. Rob Reyenga, deputy program executive officer for PEO STRI, kicks off the Army's portion of the Training and Simulation Industry Symposium June 14 in Orlando, Fla.