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OCTOBER/NOVEMBER 2011

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WORTH REPEATING

"A Soldier or NCO doesn't become the Soldier of the Year or NCO of the Year alone. They become the Soldier and NCO of the year through training and a lot of hard work, but you can't accomplish that training alone."

— Spc. Thomas Hauser, the Soldier of the Year who represents Forces Command and the 563rd Military Police Company, 10th Mountain Division.

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U.S. Army photo/Anthony Dokes

Lt. Gen. Howard Bromberg (seated left), deputy commanding general and chief of staff for Forces Command, observes a demonstration of the HUMINT Control Cell.

NEW AVATAR TRAINERS PROVIDE LIFE-LIKE INTERACTION WITH HUMAN INTELLIGENCE COLLECTORS

By Rick Gregory, *APEO Business Operations Support Staff*

Hiding quietly in a "spider hole," Saddam Hussein was surprised that U.S. Soldiers were able to find him in such a small place considering the size of Iraq. Khalid Sheikh Mohammed, the mastermind of the September 11 attack, was shocked when members of the Pakistani Inter-Services Intelligence agency busted through the doors of the home he was hiding in. After evading capture for years, Osama Bin Laden never expected a late-night visit from the elite U.S. Navy Seal Team 6.

Their hiding spots were discovered by combining high-tech intelligence collection techniques, one of the oldest forms for gathering information - human intelligence (HUMINT).

General Raymond T. Odierno, who oversaw the capture of Hussein while serving as the commander of the 4th Infantry Division in Iraq and is now the Army chief of staff, spoke then about how HUMINT helped with finding the deposed Iraqi president.

"If you could see where we found him, he could have been hiding in a hundred different places, a thousand different places, like this all around Iraq," Odierno said upon Hussein's capture. "It just takes finding the right person who will give you a good idea where he might be, and that's what happened."

Getting that right person to give that information is the work of military intelligence analysts and Army human intelligence collectors.

Helping those intelligence gatherers get the best training possible prior to deploying has been the work of PM ConSim's Product Manager for Warrior Training Integration. They have recently fielded an updated Human Intelligence Control Cell (HCC) simulators to assist the HUMINT/counterintelligence Soldiers in being all that they can be when performing their real-world mission.

Continued on page 11

I/ITSEC Helps Provide the Best for the Best

By James T. Blake, *Program Executive Officer for the U.S. Army Program Executive Office for Simulation, Training and Instrumentation*

As the Army leads the way for I/ITSEC 2011, the conference motto "Prepare the Force, Secure the Future," is not only a catchphrase, but also something that we live each and every day, in every way and everything we do.

In today's environment, we're acutely aware that the force must be ready to not only destroy and defeat, but also to build, govern and secure. It must be ready for decisive action at a moment's notice and properly balance combined arms maneuver and wide area security, both of which are an essential component of the joint force's ability to achieve strategic goals.

The U.S. Army recognizes the importance of maintaining an agile force equipped to respond to offensive, defensive, stability support and civil support operations. It's our responsibility, in the simulation and training community, to provide the systems and support necessary to raise adaptive Soldiers qualified to fulfill the Army's doctrine.

I/ITSEC attendees will find many examples of preparing the force for threats across the full spectrum of conflicts. In fact, the majority of the exhibit booths and special events were fashioned with this concept in mind. The Army of today – and the Army of the future – trains Soldiers for an era of persistent conflict against hybrid threats and uncertain future challenges. The same holds true for our sister services.

Training benefits are not constrained by the uniform worn by the individual. Training is a team sport. The tremendous technological advances we are making in simulation, training and testing reach far beyond just benefiting our nation's Warfighters. Through the affiliations that we form in the military, government services, industry and academia, we are able to have a significant impact on the training of not only our own military forces, but also those of our coalition partners.

Time and again, our simulation, instrumentation and testing products have proven to excel at meeting the training objectives in the field, as well as saving time and money for the units using them.

Let me cite two recent examples of the types of simulation systems being fielded to put our Soldiers in realistic, stressful, mission-oriented training postures that will give them the fighting edge when faced with the realities of the contemporary operating environment.

Upon assuming command of the 2nd Infantry Division in South Korea, Maj. Gen. Michael Tucker realized the non-digitized Rodriguez Live Fire Complex (RLFC) did not meet the training standards of the digitized live-fire ranges his previous units had trained on. He turned to PEO STRI to modernize the live-fire complex. Within eight months after the contract was awarded, the RLFC was transformed from a legacy gunnery range to a new world-class facility complete with two digitally enhanced ranges.

Following the Acceptance Testing and achieving Initial Operating Capability, units of the division were conducting live-fire tank gunnery training the next day. As well, a combined live-fire exercise with infantry and armor was successfully completed the next week. Maj. Gen. Tucker was extremely pleased with the quick transformation. "This technology allows us to achieve high performing killer crews in half the time required when using non-digital ranges," he said. "The unique combination of range technology and terrain allows units to train as they will fight and where they will fight if called upon to defend the Republic of Korea from aggression."

We are also excited about a new training system that will be fielded in 2012. Called the Dismounted Soldier Training System (DSTS), it supports Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff General Martin E. Dempsey's stated goal of focusing on squad-level training.

Soldiers will be able to enter a nondescript training room, each taking their place on an assigned 10 X 10 foot pad, and within minutes be virtually transported together to a geo-specific combat zone that's alive with the 3-D sights and 360-degree sounds of the battlefield. They can then carry out their assigned mission in a totally immersive environment. To add to the realism of battle, the system will be able to gauge the effects of the injuries sustained in the virtual environment, either from impact munitions such as bullets and grenades or effects from improvised explosive devices.

The DSTS will also accurately simulate the movement of ground vehicles, aircraft, dismounted infantry and guided weapons, as well as conforming visually with the environment by identifying such elements as footprints, disturbed soil, rolling terrain and dense vegetation. Now Soldiers can train in any virtual environment including nighttime, daylight, and snow, rain or other weather elements that "Mother Nature" or, in this case, the trainer can throw at them.

Army training devices, such as these, represent some of the best state-of-the-art technologies available to any fighting force. These systems—and hundreds of other training enablers and technologies—will be available at I/ITSEC. After all, second place in any military operation requiring decisive action is not an option.

Mission First. People Always. Army Strong!

ARMY '11 NAVY USMC AIR FORCE INDUSTRY

INTERSERVICE/INDUSTRY TRAINING, SIMULATION AND EDUCATION CONFERENCE

Nov. 28 - Dec. 1, 2011

Orange County Convention Center

www.iitsec.org

Army Looks To Embedded Training to Give Combat Equipment A Dual Purpose

By Rick Gregory, *APEO Business Operations Support Staff*

Innovation, it seems, always starts with someone asking, "What if…?"

If someone hadn't asked, "What if we could make a telephone that is mobile so people could carry it around without a cord?" those phone booths that Clark Kent used to change into a super hero would still be adorning street corners.

If Henry Ford hadn't wondered, "What if there were horseless carriages?" the world might be hay-dependent rather than oil-dependent.

Curious minds have been asking since the late 1980s, "What if we leveraged Army investments by giving combat equipment a dual use by embedding simulation systems on the actual equipment?"

Rob Parrish, associate chief systems engineer for live solutions, is spearheading an Embedded Training (ET) working group to delve into the pros and cons of finally making that "What if…" a reality.

"This ET working group is developing a crawl, walk, run strategy that will address the technical feasibility, benefits and costs of using ET technologies as a training enabler," Parrish said. "The working group will leverage lessons learned from previous ET efforts that will help determine what needs to be trained and whether or not embedded training is the best way to train it.

"It is the next step in taking a whole-system approach to combat system and mission command design," Parrish said. "Embedded training will simultaneously improve the way Soldiers are trained and save valuable Army resources. It's the ultimate expression of the Army's goal to 'train as you fight.'" Some examples of dual-purpose equipment that can support both operational and training needs are computers, displays, memory, laser rangefinders and laser warning sensors.

Put simply, embedded training is the use of real combat equipment that interacts, through embedded hardware or software, with Soldiers during training. When activated, the training mode will kick in, overriding the equipment's normal operational mode.

"When in the training mode, actions taken by the Soldier can be captured and redirected to the simulation," Parrish said. "For example, when a Soldier driving a tank attempts to move forward, the motion of the control grip is intercepted before it affects the physical vehicle and is redirected to the simulation through the training interface. The simulation will then use the control grip information to adjust the behavior of what is now a simulated vehicle."

While this is happening, the tanker's field of vision can be controlled through computer-generated images that will turn the homestation training range

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U.S. Army Photo

Tankers participate in a live-fire training exercise. Embedded training provides the means for Soldiers to use the same combat equipment for simulated training without deploying to the range.

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

U.S. Army Gen. Raymond T. Odierno, chief of staff of the Army, deliver remarks during the Dwight D. Eisenhower luncheon at the 2011 Annual Meeting and Exposition of the Association of the United States Army Oct. 11, 2011 in Washington, D.C.

Army Chief of Staff Outlines Priorities in Current Austere Budget Environment

Excerpts from Gen. Raymond T. Odierno's speech at the annual meeting of the Association of the Unites States Army, Oct. 11, 2011.

Our nation just passed a milestone in our history. Last week marked 10 years since the start of combat operations in Afghanistan. During this time, our Army has proven itself in arguably the most difficult environment we have ever faced. Our leaders at every level have displayed unparalleled ingenuity, flexibility and adaptability. Our Soldiers have displayed mental and physical toughness and courage under fire. They have transformed the Army into the most versatile, agile, rapidly deployable, sustainable strategic land force in the world. I'm proud to be part of this Army, in the ranks of great men and women who serve in this honored profession of ours.

Our Soldiers are a special breed and are the essence of what makes us the best Army in the world. They are Warriors, not employees. They don't work 9 to 5; they Soldier 24/7. It's not about a paycheck; it's about love of their country, their families and each other. Every time we ask them to pack their duffel bags and move out, they do it with unquestionable courage and determination.

Our Army will always stand ready… so that millions of Americans can sleep in peace. In large part, it's because of the American Soldier that the gates of freedom remain open today. Our nation today has inherent trust in our institution and our Soldiers.

Over the past few weeks, I have been involved in discussions over how to best address the fundamental tension between an increasingly complicated and unpredictable world and a fiscally austere environment. It's an even greater challenge because we still don't know just how austere it will become. But from where I sit, I know that our nation expects us to be a part of the solution to our debt. We should be, and we will. But we also must be honest with the nation about the risks such decisions bring with them.

In our nation today, I believe that there is broad agreement that we have to "win the wars we're in." Some might wish to move past the struggles we continue to face in bringing

Continued on next page

about a decisive resolution to the conflicts in Afghanistan and to shore up a fragile but peaceful Iraq, but we must stay the course. We will never let up on going after the terrorists who threaten America and our own way of life. And I personally remain focused on doing anything and everything within my power to ensure we meet our national goals and provide everything we possibly can in support of our brave men and women in the field. At the same time, I know how important it is to maintaining the support of the American people. We must complete our task without draining their goodwill and treasure.

So, what are the lessons and priorities that we have to set? What should they be? Today, we are the best trained, best equipped, best led -- combat tested -- force the world has ever known, even today as we address our own fiscal constraints. It is imperative that we maintain those credentials into the future, and that is my charter.

We must be a joint force that is adaptive, agile, versatile, integrated, lethal, and synergistic. So, as we look ahead, what must the Army be able to do? What are our priorities?

First and foremost, we must win the current fight by ensuring we continue to provide trained and ready forces for Afghanistan and other ongoing contingencies.

Second, the Army must develop a versatile mix of capabilities, formations and equipment that allows us to be a flexible force in the future that provides agility, adaptability, deployability and depth to the joint force.

Third, we must preserve our high quality all-volunteer force, not only today, but into the future. We have the best quality all-volunteer force we've ever had. We cannot waiver on this commitment.

Fourth, we must foster a continued commitment to the Army profession. The Army is about standards, discipline and fitness. As I said earlier, this is a profession, not a job. We represent the greater good; individuals pulling together to form the strength of this nation.

And fifth, we must continue to adapt our leader development programs in order to develop broad, adaptable and thoughtful leaders. We must challenge our leaders to think creatively, take prudent risk, and more importantly, provide them the confidence of our support. They deserve nothing less!

Ultimately, this Army must provide depth and versatility to the joint force, be effective when employed and provide an array of options to our national leaders. The Army is -- and must remain -- the force of decisive action for our nation. To be this force, it means being decisive in a wide range of missions including regular and irregular warfare against conventional and hybrid threats; providing humanitarian assistance, both home and abroad; engaging with our allies while building partner capacity; and supporting civil authorities. It also enables the joint force with decisive and sustainable land power, while being responsive to our combatant commanders. Above all, it is an Army that maintains trust with the American people.

So what are some of the challenges we look at today? In the past during periods of austerity we've said, "We will have to do more with less." As we move ahead under significant budget restrictions, we will have to do "less with less." We will have to accept higher levels of risk than we have in the past. Determining where best to do so is the primary task before us.

This implies we must more wisely share resources -- and burdens -- and apply them in the most efficient and effective manner. It's ultimately about achieving greater effectiveness in global security.

One major concern that I have is the potential for a reduction of a trillion dollars from the defense budget, should the super committee be unable to reach an agreement. A cut of this magnitude would be devastating. This would threaten every aspect of the joint force and especially the Army -- its force structure, modernization efforts and ability to sustain the all-volunteer force, as well as our defense industrial base. These automatic cuts would hollow the force and come at a time that could severely impact our ability to influence this uncertain security environment that we face around the world.

All of us have to realize and understand that we will get smaller. That is fiscal reality. But, it's the "how" that is critical. If we go too fast, we risk the current and future readiness of the force and lose the flexibility to react to the uncertain security environment we find ourselves in. We also threaten the trust that is the foundation of everything we do.

We must avoid letting the present debate decrease our ability to fulfill our role as a vital part of the joint force. Instead, we must maintain our effectiveness and the deterrent it provides as we prepare for the future.

Today I could not be more proud to be a Soldier, serving alongside the great men and women that willingly serve our country. We are all in this together. Together we will sustain the Army and ensure a balanced joint force to provide flexibility and capability to the greatest nation in the world. And I remind everybody, the strength of our nation is our Army; the strength of our Army is our Soldiers; the strength of our Soldiers is our families. That is what makes us Army Strong!

Read the full transcript of Gen. Odierno's AUSA speech at *www.ausa.org/meetings/2011/annual.*

FSRs SERVE AS PEO STRI'S EYES, EARS, VOICE ACROSS THE ARMY

By Kristen A. McCullough, *PEO STRI Public Affairs Officer*

If PEO STRI was a university, the FSRs would be a fraternity, and certainly one of the most prominent groups on campus. Nearly all 10 members that make up the Field Service Representative cadre are retired Army colonels. They each have a special bond with the most senior leaders in the organizations they support. They're wise. They're refined.

> "FSRs ensure that the training leaders are fully aware of PEO STRI's products and services and that the PEO STRI workforce from the leadership down to the newest employee is fully aware of the field's satisfaction with PEO STRI's products and services."
>
> **- Colonel Bill Fischer,**
> *the FSR to Fort Carson, Colo.*

And when the going gets tough, they get going.

The FSRs are PEO STRI contracted employees embedded in various posts, bases and installations all across the U.S. that serve as liaisons between their duty station and PEO STRI.

"We provide PEO STRI personnel access to commanders and Soldiers from the three star commander to the lowest ranking Soldier at the installation," said J. Dan Keirsey, the longest serving FSR among the group, who's stationed at the Joint Base Lewis McChord.

The interaction goes both ways, as noted by retired Army Colonel Bill Fischer, the FSR to Fort Carson, Colo. "FSRs ensure that the training leaders are fully aware of PEO STRI's products and services and that the PEO STRI workforce from the leadership down to the newest employee is fully aware of the field's satisfaction with PEO STRI's products and services," he said.

Tom Cole, the FSR for Fort Benning, Ga., put it a little more bluntly. "We're the eyes and ears for PEO STRI."

Not only are the FSRs the eyes and ears for the organization, they are many times the voice. The link. The connection.

For instance, two FSRs – Fischer and the representative supporting Fort Riley, Kan., Mark Wilson – were instrumental in supporting PM TRADE's Digital Multi-Purpose Range Complexes (DMPRC) at each of their respective locations.

"I was part of the team that completed the DMPRC almost three months early, and it passed the Government Acceptance Test on the first attempt," Wilson noted.

In Fischer's case, he said he "worked with the installation leadership to ensure that PM TRADE received all of the Soldier, tank and Bradley support required to properly conduct contractor and PEO STRI testing before the final acceptance test was conducted.

"The importance of this acceptance test can be appreciated by the fact that the FORSCOM G3/5/7 and Army's director of training personally traveled to Fort Carson to witness the test," he continued. "The result was a very successful DMPRC acceptance test and, during a subsequent acceptance test, a very successful test of the Digital Range Training System version 2."

In a similar instance, PEO STRI's FSR to Fort Bragg, N.C., provided unprecedented support to his host installation. Chuck Otterstedt, a retired Army colonel who served two

Continued on next page

PEO STRI

FSR LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT SEMINARS

Don't miss the opportunity to hear from our Field Service Representatives and find out how they can better support you!

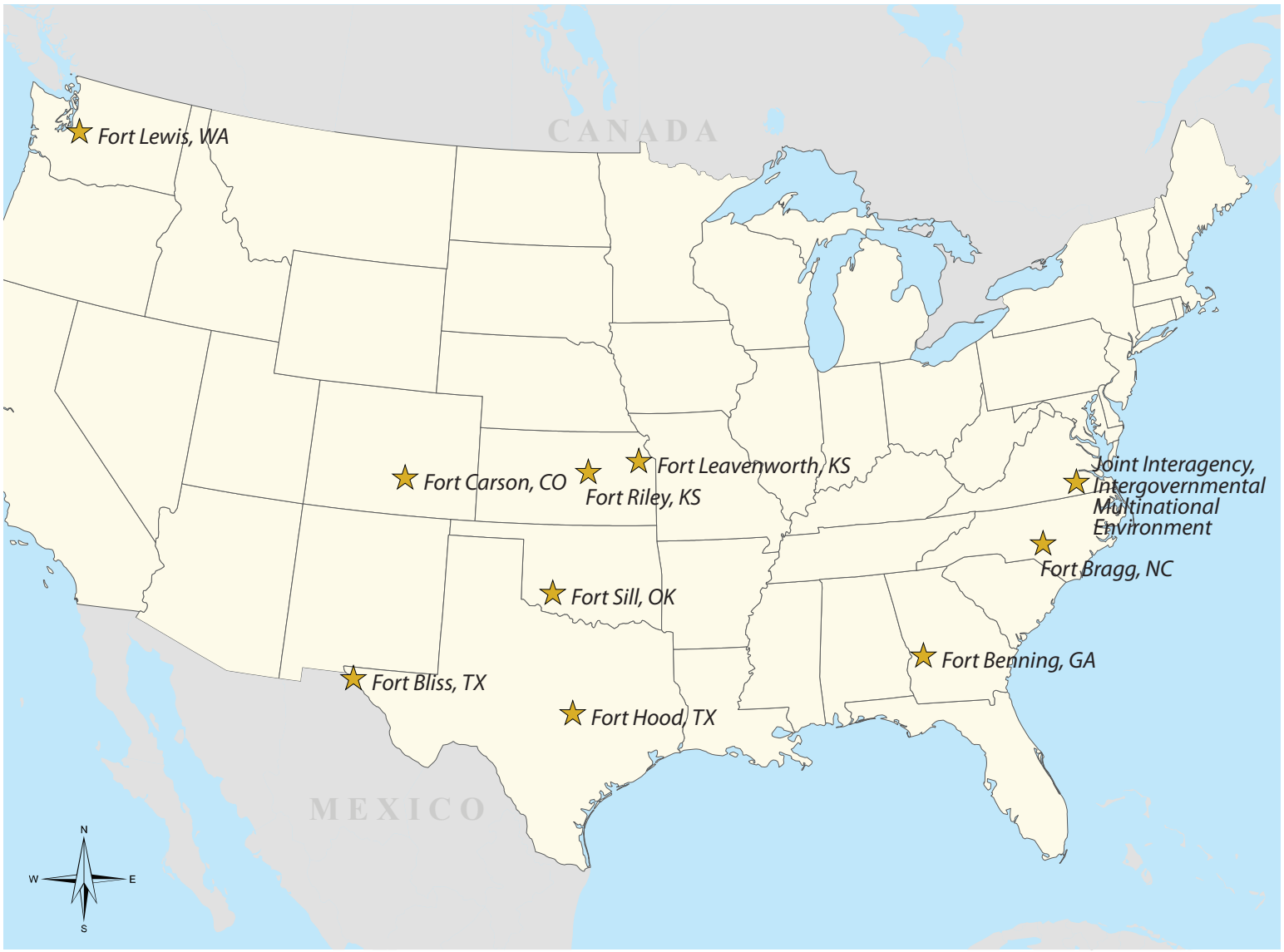
Nov. 30
9 a.m. – 11 a.m.
AFAMS Building, Bishop Conference Room

Dec. 1
8 a.m. – 10 a.m.
Orange County Convention Center Room 207C

For more information contact:
Carol Martin at x5577

FSRS: *continued from page 6*

FSR Locations Across the United States



tours in Iraq as the 41st Field Artillery Brigade commander and later as the chief of Future Operations for XVIII Airborne Corps, worked with PM CATT and PM TRADE to provide a quick and viable solution to track Special Operation Soldiers during the land navigation course.

"The vice chief of staff of the Army was going to cancel the course if we didn't produce a solution in time for the next land navigation course," Otterstedt reminisced.

Each of the FSRs save the day in their own unique way when the going gets tough.

Carol Martin

A Note from the FSR Coordinator

The Field Service Representative (FSR) program is a PEO STRI-sponsored initiative whereby a small group of retired, senior military officers are positioned at key military installations and locations in support of training issues effecting both PEO STRI and the host installation. These support service contractors are known as Field Service Representatives, or FSRs.

The FSRs are empowered to ensure PEO STRI is providing the service and support necessary to accomplish the mission of their respective customers. They are placed in the most effective locations where they can continue to influence the outcome of actions that effect Soldiers and our Army. Over the past several years, FSRs have participated in every type of project imaginable, from coordinating fielding of new equipment to resolving contractor logistical support issues. The best results occur when the FSR is incorporated as a key member of the installation commander's staff where they are sensitized to the priorities of the local commander.

The FSR program has grown from two charter locations in 1999 to 10 current locations. The criteria for selection to the FSR program is very competitive, requiring individuals of the highest quality. The typical FSR is a retired colonel or lieutenant colonel with more than 25 years of military service, command experience at all levels and a broad base of technical and operational experience.

The proactive nature of using operationally current and technically competent retired, senior military officers has been a huge success. Each FSR is an envoy representing the PEO and the respective installations and organizations they support.

CFC
COMBINED FEDERAL CAMPAIGN
50 Years of Caring
W ROBBERTS AVE
we GIVE...
... because we see the GOOD it does
U.S. OFFICE OF PERSONNEL MANAGEMENT

CFC MARKS 50 YEARS OF GIVING; ON TRACK TO MAKE GOALS

By J.D. Leipold, *Army News Service*

In the past 50 years, federal employees and service members have raised some $7 billion for charities and are striving to continue the trend in this year's Combined Federal Campaign.

CFC celebrates its 50th anniversary this year with a campaign that continues until Dec. 15 with aims to provide financial support for more than 4,000 charitable organizations. Before President John F. Kennedy created the CFC in 1961, charities ran separate campaigns soliciting for donations throughout the year which was costly and time consuming.

The Defense Department held a mid-campaign event at the Pentagon Oct. 27 that included Army, Navy, Marine Corps and Air Force representatives as well as displays by 17 CFC charities. A keyboard and trombone jazz duo from FAME, the Foundation for the Advancement of Music and Education also performed.

U.S. Army Graphic/J.D. Leipold

In its 50th year, the Combined Federal Campaign has raised more than $7 billion for charities.

Army Maj. Gen. R. Mark Brown, the military representative for the DoD National Capital Area CFC said the goal for 2011 is $14.2 million, the same as in 2010. That's in spite of Base Realignment and Closure and the reduction in numbers of federal employees and military personnel.

"Last year we achieved $17.1 million, and we're probably on a pace to match or exceed that," he said. "The civil servants and military are always very generous, even in these tough economic times they never cease to amaze me with their generosity and kindness."

At the National Capital Area Army level, the campaign goal is $1.9 million. That's down from $3 million last year. The reason is that the Army in the National Capital Region has declined by about 9,000 personnel, said Karin Kane, who is managing the local Army campaign this year.

She said Base Realignment and Closure moved those personnel out of the National Capital Region to places like Redstone Arsenal, Ala., and San Antonio.

John E. Lazar who oversees the CFC for the entire National Capital Area, which takes in a number of counties around Washington, Maryland and Virginia, said the overall CFC goal is $67.2 million and includes all federal agencies including DOD.

"We're at the mid-point right now and about $1.4 million ahead of where we were at this time last year," he said. "The crust of the money comes between now and Dec. 15. There are still many kick-offs going on and we still have 245 events planned for November."

He said the National Capital Area area was right on track to make and possibly exceed goal.

"The average gift last year was approximately $493, which is phenomenal and shows the power of the federal workforce and what a compassionate community of caring it is," said Lazar who has run non-profit fundraising programs for more than 30 years. "I want to extend my appreciation to all of the service members, to all of the civilian members of DoD and all of the other federal agencies who are really reaching out during a difficult time to help so many people."

CITIZEN STRI

"How did you celebrate Halloween?"

"I took my son trick or treating."
-Marwane Bahbaz, PSG

"I am very fortunate to live in a family oriented neighborhood. As parents, our primary concern is for the safety of our children so this year our neighborhood decided to do a block party to promote a safe Halloween for our children. Everyone enjoyed music, food and, of course, candy... lots of it! It's also interesting and fun to see the creativity of the various costumes."
-Suzzette Davis, PSG

"I celebrated Halloween by taking my daughters trick or treating."
-Terick Coleman, Acq. Center

Want your opinion heard? Answer December's Question! The question is open to the entire workforce. ***"In light of the holiday season, what's your favorite family tradition? Your favorite holiday meal? Your best holiday vacation taken? Or, how do you typically spend your holidays?"*** Send your response to Kristen.McCullough@us.army.mil and put Citizen STRI in the subject line.

PM CONSIM: *continued from page 3*

he is on into a virtual combat zone.

Hardware and software required to support embedded training can be configured several ways.

In the "appended" configuration, the device is attached to the vehicle or other combat system through a standard training port and is easily removable for combat operations, while a similar set-up called a "partially embedded" mode includes some software functions migrated into the original combat system. A non-removable, or "fully embedded," arrangement provides for the training device as an integral part of the combat system design. This allows for the Soldier to train while the vehicle is moving, as in a tactical engagement simulation.

Parrish said the advantages of embedded training include:

- Enabling Soldiers to train while they are deployed.
- Facilitating mission rehearsal without the need for special equipment.
- Saving money by giving existing combat equipment both a combat and training function.
- Making training available to Soldiers at locations too small to justify standalone training devices or with insufficient real estate to conduct maneuver training.

Using the unit motor pool as an example, Parrish said ET creates educational opportunities where they currently do not exist.

"Today, the motor pool is a place to store and service vehicles," he pointed out. "With ET, it is also an educational facility. Troops on their way to combat or deployment may not have transport capacity for training devices, but if training is embedded in their combat equipment, then potentially wasted waiting time can be converted to productive training time."

Embedding training is not a replacement for other types of training. It is complementary to existing training systems. Embedded training will provide Soldiers more opportunities to train and maintain key perishable skills by using their tactical/operational equipment.

In a paper submitted by three students pursuing a Master of Science in Program Management from the Naval Postgraduate School this past June, the authors concurred that embedded training must be considered and pursued.

"Deployments cause Soldiers to be out of sync with the training cycle for extended periods of time and away from installations that have training simulators," they wrote. "Embedded training can be the common thread drawn between legacy, current, and future forces so our Soldiers' and wartime operations are not hindered. Embedded training can keep our Soldiers' skills sharp before, during and after deployments. Embedded training can provide the Soldier a training capability anywhere, anytime and to standard."

Parrish and the participants of the ET workshops are exploring answering that "What if…" sooner rather than later.

Through training on the HCC simulator, HUMINT collectors are able to refine their skills in tactical questioning, source operations, interrogations, screenings and the use of an interpreter.

"The HCC provides Warfighters in the intelligence field the opportunity to exploit intelligence data during training at their homestation just as they would in real-world operations," said Don Stewart, project director for the Intelligence & Electronic Warfare Tactical Proficiency Trainer (IEWTPT). "They do this in a conflict-specific context with the ability to conduct multiple repetitions to hone their skills and develop their experience."

The latest version uses the best high-fidelity technology available in adding realism to the training.

"The new HCC uses CryEngine 3, the latest game engine capability," Stewart said. "The high-quality graphics technology delivers near-photorealistic avatars (virtual humans). This puts the trainee in a realistic, immersive environment that replicates the culture, language, scenario context and life-like interactions and circumstances typical of a HUMINT mission. The HCC creates this environment through the generation of a three dimensional virtual environment that includes the free flowing interaction with avatars."

Besides their life-like appearance, the avatars posing as the subjects being interviewed not only speak in the foreign language appropriate with the context of the scenario, but the innovative technology improves the accuracy of their understanding of the trainee's voice.

"The new version provides the capability of the avatars to recognize pronouns and understand context," Stewart explained. "A trainee can also follow a theme of questioning that includes, 'What next?' and 'What time was that?' with the avatar understanding the line of inquiry."

As with the initial version of the HCC, the trainee must begin the interaction with the avatar by building a rapport with it based on specific cultural sensitivities and must meet particular safety, security, anonymity and other needs in order to unlock the information that he or she is trying to obtain.

"If in the course of the interview, the trainee offends the avatar in some way, such as questioning their honesty or speaking directly to a female avatar, the avatar will become irritated and uncooperative," Stewart said. "[The game engine] makes it possible for the avatar to display a range of emotions, physical reactions and non-verbal cues associated with specific conditions and lines of questioning."

Currently, HCC is offered in English, Standard Arabic, Korean, Spanish, French and Portuguese, with Pashtu and Dari planned for future language development. Stewart noted that the team works closely with the Intelligence Center of Excellence in Fort Huachuca, Ariz., to determine any future language needs.

PRESIDENTIAL PROCLAMATION: November's Military Family Month

From the Office of the Press Secretary of President Barack Obama, the President of the United States

With every step we take on American soil, we tread on ground made safer for us through the invaluable sacrifices of our service members and their families. During Military Family Month, we celebrate the exceptional service, strength, and sacrifice of our military families, whose commitment to our Nation goes above and beyond the call of duty.

Just as our troops embody the courage and character that make America's military the finest in the world, their family members embody the resilience and generosity that make our communities strong. They serve with heroism in their homes and neighborhoods while they are without the comfort of having loved ones nearby. Day after day, week after week, spouses resolutely accomplish the work of two parents, sons and daughters diligently keep up with homework and activities, and parents and grandparents patiently wait for news of their child and grandchild's safe return. To these families, and to those whose service members never come home, we bear a debt that can never be fully repaid.

As Americans, we are at our best when we honor and uphold our obligations to one another and to those who have given so much to our country. Earlier this year, First Lady Michelle Obama and Dr. Jill Biden challenged all Americans to serve those who sacrifice in our name with the Joining Forces initiative. Joining Forces strives to enlist support for our men and women in uniform and our veterans not only when they are away at war, but at every stage of their lives. My administration is dedicated to doing more for our military families by enhancing learning opportunities for our military children, championing our military spouses as they advance their careers and education, and providing better mental health counseling to heal the wounds left in war's wake.

Our service members swore an oath to protect and defend, and with each step we take on this land we cherish, we remember our steadfast promise to protect the well-being of the family members they hold dear. Every act of kindness we can offer helps cultivate a culture of support for our military families, and I encourage each American to make a difference in the lives of these patriots.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, BARACK OBAMA, President of the United States of America, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and the laws of the United States, do hereby proclaim November 2011 as Military Family Month. I call on all Americans to honor military families through private actions and public service for the tremendous contributions they make in the support of our service members and our Nation.

Holidays & Events

NOVEMBER 11
Veterans Day

NOVEMBER 18
Town Hall

NOVEMBER 24
Thanksgiving

NOVEMBER 28 - DECEMBER 1
I/ITSEC

INSIDE PEO STRI

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Editor:
Kristen Dooley McCullough
Editor-in-Chief
Kristen.McCullough@us.army.mil

Design:
Dwain Fletcher Co.
CGgraphics@peostri.army.mil

TEAM ORLANDO IN PHOTOS

U.S. Army Photo/Doug Schaub

Col. Karen Saunders, the former project manager for PM ConSim who recently deployed to Afghanistan, speaks at the PEO STRI Leadership Development Seminar Oct. 21 about acquisition and contracting in support of the NATO Training Mission - Afghanistan.

U.S. Army Photo/Doug Schaub

Lt. Col. Keith Smith, PEO STRI's program manager for Foreign Military Sales, briefs the workforce Oct. 21 at the Leadership Development Seminar after spending seven months in Afghanistan overseeing the training of Afghan National Army contracts.

U.S. Army Photo/Doug Schaub

Developmental employees from the fifth Acquisition Academy class graduate Sept. 29.

U.S. Army Photo/Doug Schaub

Dr. Jim Blake (left) presides over the Acquisition Academy graduation Sept. 29, and Mr. Kim Denver offered the keynote address.

U.S. Army Photo/Doug Schaub

One of the QH-50C helicopter targets that PEO STRI helped to restore arrives at the Smithsonian National Air and Space Museum Oct. 6.