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### WORTH REPEATING

“ We're not just worried about suicides; we're concerned with the overall fitness and well-being of our Soldiers, Army civilians and family members. It is especially important that leaders lead the charge in changing the Army culture, wherever seeking help for suicide or other issues is stigmatized.”

— **Walter O. Morales**,  
chief of the Army Suicide  
Prevention Program.



U.S. Army Photo/Sgt. Edward A. Garibay, 16th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment

Secretary of the Army John McHugh sits in an up-armored vehicle while listening to a 2nd Heavy Brigade Combat Team, 1st Armored Division Soldier explain new equipment being tested during Network Integration Evaluation 12.2 at Fort Bliss, Texas, May 9, 2012.

## ARMY LEADERS SAY TECHNOLOGY EVALUATIONS SET THE PACE FOR AN IMPROVED ACQUISITION PROCESS

By Kristen McCullough, PEO STRI Public Affairs Officer

As the Army stares down looming budget cuts amidst the need for a critical technology refresh, the Network Integration Evaluation (NIE) exercises set the scene for a more efficient acquisition process, senior defense officials said.

“We have economic challenges in this nation, and the military budget reflects those as well, but it's critical that we continue to modernize and give our Soldiers the best possible equipment,” Secretary of the Army John

McHugh said during a visit to White Sands Missile Range in May 2012. “The NIE is a critical component to make sure that we can, in an affordable way, continue to modernize and give our Soldiers the best available equipment.”

Launched in June 2011, the NIEs are semi-annual evaluations designed to quickly integrate and mature the Army's tactical communications network, the service's top modernization priority. The NIE exercises

promote Soldier feedback of the technology under test, and the rapid fielding of network equipment to meet their needs.

The NIEs are part of the Agile Process, the Army's new quick-reaction acquisition methodology to address defined capability gaps and insert new technologies into the overall network at a lower cost. By putting equipment in Soldiers' hands in a realistic operational environment every six months, the Army and

Continued on page 11

# NEW SOLDIER MONITORING SYSTEM SAVES LIVES DURING TRAINING EXERCISES

By Rick Gregory, APEO Business Operations Support Staff

While the majority of PEO STRI's fielded training aids, devices, simulators and simulations are used to train Soldiers on how to survive on the battlefield, one system is being fielded this month to help save lives during training exercises. Called the Soldier Monitoring System (SMS), it was developed, procured and fielded as the result of a Soldier's unfortunate death during a special operations training exercise in 2010.

The Soldier, a Special Forces candidate, didn't return following a 10-hour solo land navigation course. Having not used his safety equipment—a whistle, strobe light and reflective belt attached to his pack—it took a search using more than 475 Soldiers to locate his body.

To prevent a recurrence of the tragic incident, Army leadership directed the implementation of a persistent Soldier monitoring system. PM TRADE answered the call by transferring an Initial Homestation Instrumentation Training System (I-HITS) from Alaska to Fort Bragg, N.C. During its first time in use, the I-HITS proved its worth when three injured Soldiers were quickly located and provided medical attention within an hour.

Since then, PM CATT's Product Manager for Special Operations Forces Training Systems, SOF Ground team, led by Rick Matthews, has procured and fielded an objective solution called the Soldier Monitoring System, or SMS. The new system is a radio frequency-based tracking system where every Soldier carries a Soldier Wireless Device (SWD) that transmits back to the Exercise Control (EXCON) station. Some of the system specifications are:

- System Weight: 1.5 pounds with the extended-life battery.
- 48 hours of battery life with the radio signal refresh rate every 60 seconds; 24 hours at 30 seconds.
- A "No Motion" alert is sent to the EXCON if the SWD remains motionless for a programmed period of time.
- A "Boundary" alert is sent to the EXCON if the SWD goes outside a designated boundary.
- The SWD has a "Panic Button" that the Soldier can easily activate in case of an emergency.
- All EXCON data can be pushed to hand-held tracking tablets to facilitate Soldier location



U.S. Army photo/Staff Sgt. Russell Lee Klika

**A Special Forces qualifications course student prepares to conduct a field exercise.**



U.S. Army photo

**The Soldier Monitoring System's radio device carrying case hold up to 13 radios.**

and command and control.

William Sanchez, project director and lead engineer for the SMS effort, explained that "the cadre can program the system settings, like the boundaries and SWD refresh rate, to meet the requirements of a specific training event. This flexibility allows the commander to tailor the system to his or her training and safety needs".

The entire system can be completely set up in less than two hours and, using a bar code scanner, the devices are distributed quickly and efficiently to the Soldiers. SMS can handle more than 400 devices without degrading the coverage area while providing a wealth of monitoring data back to the EXCON station.

"It has a small footprint, is logistically simple to maintain, yet offers the special operations community an unparalleled capability," said Sanchez.

Lt. Col. Richard Haggerty, product manager for SOF Training Systems, said he is proud of the team's accomplishments in such a short period of time.

"The small and agile SMS team, cooperating



U.S. Army photo

**The Soldier Monitoring System's antenna assembly's mast is extended to the maximum 80 foot height.**

with many different organizations, was able to develop an asymmetric acquisition strategy, secure funding and execute an on-site Limited User Acceptance with 50 devices in just over 12 months. In acquisition circles this is almost unheard of."

By the end of the calendar year, the SMS will be used in supporting the operations and exercises of four different organizations, all with different training requirements, at Fort Bragg, N.C., Yuma, Ariz., and Fort Campbell, Ky.



# Travel Tips to Know Before You Go

By John Andino and Cindy Capote, PEO STRI Travel Office

## Before You Go

- All travel authorizations must include a justification stating that the meeting could not have occurred via telecommunication means; i.e., “Alternate communications means, such as a secure

**“A traveler must exercise the same care and regard for incurring government-paid expenses as would a prudent person traveling at personal expenses.”**

*- as cited in both the Joint Federal Travel Regulation and Joint Travel Regulation*

video teleconference or other web-based communication, have been considered and deemed insufficiently able to accomplish the travel objectives.” The justification can be added to the “Comments to the Approving Official” portion of the authorization.

- It is mandatory when selecting a flight to choose the contract carrier.
- When selecting a flight, ensure that the departing airport code is “MCO” for Orlando International Airport and not “ORL,” the code for the Orlando Executive Airport.
- If you’re traveling OCONUS and your flight lands a day or more after your departure date, ensure that you mark the day you arrive at your destination, and not the day you depart on the airplane, so the per diem entitlements are accurately reflected.
- After your authorization is approved, tickets will be issued three business days prior to travel.
- A traveler should not leave for the airport without having their E-Invoice and travel orders in hand. You can print your E-Invoice by going to [www.virtuallythere.com](http://www.virtuallythere.com). Log in with your reservation locator, last name and email address.
- A traveler can be reimbursed for up to two checked bags.

## While You’re There

- Changing flights while on travel should be made through SATO at 800-788-7286 and not with the airlines.
- Rental car companies are going “smoke free.” You are responsible to check with the company regarding their smoking policy prior to renting the vehicle. Penalties are not a reimbursable cost by the government.
- Pre-charging for fuel is prohibited.

- Baggage tips are not reimbursable for civilian personnel, however military personnel can be reimbursed per the JFTR.
- Tips for transportation—i.e., taxi, shuttle and limo—are reimbursable for all travelers. Certain tips are not reimbursable—i.e., maid, doorman, gym and concierge—because the fee is calculated within the incidental expenses.
- Laundry expenses are not authorized OCONUS. Laundry expenses are reimbursable for civilian personnel after four consecutive nights of travel. Military personnel can be reimbursed \$2 per day after seven consecutive nights. For example, Lt. Col. Doe travels for eight consecutive nights; he may be reimbursed \$16. If he travels six consecutive nights, he would not be reimbursed.

## When You Return

- Review your travel voucher thoroughly; your signature certifies that all the information is accurate.
- When entering baggage fees into your DTS travel voucher, create an expense for “Baggage Fee” under non-mileage expenses rather than selecting the “Excess Baggage” option.

- Check for and remove duplicate expenses, typically charged under airfare, rental car and lodging, or Commercial Travel Office (CTO) fees.
- Hotel taxes in CONUS should be separate from the lodging rate and entered under the non-mileage expenses. For OCONUS travel, hotel taxes are not a separate expense and should be shown under the lodging per diem entitlements.
- Ensure that your lodging and car rental receipts show a \$0.00 balance.
- The E-Invoice is a required receipt.
- If you claim a conference fee and meals are provided, ensure that you mark which meals were provided under the per diem entitlements.



## Questions?

Email [DTSQuery@us.army.mil](mailto:DTSQuery@us.army.mil)  
Look out for the PEO STRI  
travel policy coming soon!



## Travel Terms Decoded //

DTS - Defense Travel System, [www.defensetravel.osd.mil](http://www.defensetravel.osd.mil), the website for DoD travelers  
JTR - Joint Travel Regulation for civilian personnel  
JFTR - Joint Federal Travel Regulation for military personnel

CONUS - the 48 contiguous U.S. states, including the District of Columbia  
OCONUS - all the areas outside of CONUS

# STRI Inks Memorandum of Agreement with Department of Defense Joint Staff

By Rick Gregory, APEO Business Operations Support Staff

When Army Chief of Staff General Raymond Odierno cased the colors of the U.S. Joint Forces Command (USJFCOM) last year, he said it does not mean the end of joint operations.

“Our warfighting commanders will continue to benefit from the timely coordinated deployment of joint operational capable forces, synchronized training of those forces and prioritized integrated capabilities to support them,” he said.

He added that many of the missions performed by personnel from the disestablished USJFCOM, his last command before becoming the Army chief of staff, would remain, but under new management in other agencies.

That promise became reality in August 2011 with the formal transition of people and key functions to the Joint Staff, and a key support element remains in place as well. In June 2012, the previous formal relationship between PEO STRI and USJFCOM was continued with a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) endorsed between PEO STRI and the Joint Staff, J7 Deputy Directorate for Joint and Coalition Warfighting (JCW), the Department of Defense organization that assumed many of USJFCOM’s responsibilities.

Signed by Dr. Jim Blake, PEO STRI, and Vice Adm. William Gortney, director of the Joint Staff, the MOA designates PEO STRI as one of the primary service organizations for contracting, acquisition and materiel development support to the J7 JCW.

Located in Suffolk, Va., and led by Maj. Gen. Frederick Rudesheim, the J7 JCW mission is to support the training and development of joint, interagency and multinational capabilities to meet the present and future operational needs of joint and combined forces.

Their multinational collaboration and integration involves 19 nations with bilateral MOAs including Australia, Canada, Czech Republic, Denmark, Finland, Germany, Hungary, Italy, Japan, Jordan, Morocco, Poland, Portugal, Korea, Romania, Singapore, Spain, Sweden and the United Kingdom.

As part of the MOA, PEO STRI maintains a field service representative, Jeff Yeaw, at J7 JCW to provide day-to-day personal representation and coordination.

“Leadership here is extremely pleased with



U.S. Army photo

**Helicopter pilots learn how to react to surface-to-air missile threats during live training exercises when using the Man-Portable Aircraft Survivability Trainer (MAST).**

the seamless transition of our support from the Joint Forces Command to the Joint Staff,” Yeaw said. “We are providing the Joint Staff with the same high level of professional support for functions like joint training and their modeling and simulations enablers that we provided USJFCOM for many years.”

Under two successive MOAs with USJFCOM dating back to 2004, PEO STRI was responsible for processing their Foreign Military Sales and International Programs as well as the contracting for and fielding of many training aids, devices simulators and simulations (TADSS).

One of the recent highly successful TADSS requirements developed under the USJFCOM MOA was the Man-portable Aircraft Survivability Trainer (MAST). MAST’s delivery, new equipment training and sustainment all continue under the new MOA with the Joint Staff.

Other requirements under the new MOA include continued processing of J7 JCW’s Foreign Military Sales, Joint Information Operations Range (Cyber) support, inclusion



Photo courtesy of AAI Corporation

**The Man-Portable Aircraft Survivability Trainer (MAST), which weighs less than 35 pounds, can stimulate an aircraft’s common missile warning system from more than three miles away. It was one of the recent requirements developed under the memorandum of agreement between PEO STRI and the Department of Defense’s Joint Staff.**

of the WARSIM Intelligence Module (WIM) and the Joint Terminal Attack Control Trainer in the Joint Live Virtual Constructive Federation, collaboration on the Joint Training Enterprise Architecture (Cloud Enabled Modular Training Support and Services) among other initiatives.



# SHINING PEO STRI ENGINEER GIVES BACK TO PROFESSION AND NATION

By Kristen A. McCullough, PEO STRI Public Affairs Officer



Michelle Garcia  
PM TRADE

Fostering the next generation of American scientists and engineers is a national priority. A STEM-driven workforce, one that is dominant in the areas of science, technology, engineering and mathematics, is indisputably linked to national competitiveness and success—an agreed-upon fact by politicians, business executives and educators alike.

“If America is to maintain our high standard of living, we must continue to innovate. We are competing with nations many times our size. We don’t have a single brain to waste. Math and science are the engines of innovation. With these engines we can lead the world,” said Dr. Michael Brown, an American geneticist and 1985 Nobel Prize winner in medicine.

Many professionals across Team Orlando are doing their part to increase the next generation of Americans’ interest in math and science. One of PEO STRI’s engineers, Michelle Garcia, is especially dedicated to advancing STEM initiatives.

For the second straight summer, Garcia volunteered a week of her personal time to mentor high school students interested in pursuing engineering at the U.S. Navy Seabees Camp at the Naval Base Ventura County in Port Hueneme, Calif. The program is part of the Society of American Military Engineers’ engineering and construction camps.

“I love my job and supporting the Soldiers, but I also greatly appreciate the opportunity to educate and help guide today’s youth to become tomorrow’s engineers and service members,” Garcia, a systems engineer

supporting PM TRADE’s target modernization program, said.

Garcia served as the squad mentor to 10 of the 50 students who attended the camp. She coached them through the design, construction and testing of concrete beams, popsicle-stick bridges and cardboard boats.

The campers, most ranging in age from 15- to 17-years-old, were selected from a highly competitive group of American students attending schools across the world. They all had one thing in common—a burning desire to pursue a career in engineering.

Garcia’s squad, who competed against four other squads in engineering-based challenges, was a little different than the others this year. One of her students had ADHD, a neurobehavioral disorder that can hamper one’s ability to concentrate. “The great thing was my squad was never negative; in fact, they were always encouraging [the camper with ADHD] and staying positive,” Garcia said. “That made me more proud. We weren’t putting the score first; my students just wanted to learn.”

Perhaps the greatest token of success, she noted, was the future of these students, many of whom set their standards high to become one of America’s next engineers, much like Garcia herself did not too long ago.

After graduating from UCF with a degree in mechanical engineering, Garcia joined PEO STRI in the fall of 2009 as a systems engineer in the third Acquisition Academy class.

“I wanted to serve my country in some capacity - that was the main check box for me,” she said. “Engineering opens up a world of possibilities.”

Garcia’s passion for engineering is evident in both the workplace and beyond, her senior leaders acknowledge. Garcia’s



Courtesy Photo/U.S. Navy Seabees Camp

**U.S. Navy Seabees campers participate in the Leadership Reaction Course July 26, 2012, in which they work as a team to build a makeshift bridge.**



Courtesy Photo/U.S. Navy Seabees Camp

**Michelle Garcia, an engineer supporting PM TRADE, mentors campers participating in the U.S. Navy Seabees Camp July 2012.**

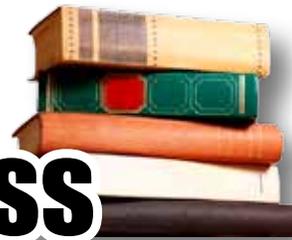
lengthy list of resume-caliber accomplishments includes not only volunteer work with the Seabees Camp, but also an Army Civilian Achievement Award.

“Her recent efforts to give back to high school students for the greater good do not surprise me,” said Tom Coffman, a ranking

leader in Garcia’s PM TRADE chain of command. “That is the makeup of Michelle Garcia, a rising star in our workforce.

“It’s great to have her on our team as a permanent employee,” Coffman continued. “She will quickly rise to the top of our PEO STRI workforce.”

# Introducing the 2012 Acquisition Academy Class



The sixth iteration of PEO STRI's Acquisition Academy kicked off July 16 with 17 developmental employees joining the organization. The employees, selected from a pool of 2,600 applicants, will serve in the roles of acquisition logisticians, system engineers, operations research analysts, contract specialists and program analysts upon successful completion of the Academy. The graduation ceremony is set for Sept. 27.



**Jean Burmester, dean**

Hometown: San Jose, Ca.  
Education: B.S., Rollins College, and MBA, Florida Institute of Technology  
Experience: Director, ADL Co-Lab; senior project director, AVCATT



**Michael Elias**

Hometown: Jupiter, Fla.  
Education: Bachelor's degree in electrical engineering, Florida Atlantic University  
Experience: National Analysis Center; UltraClenz  
A2 track: System engineer



**Devin Hollenbaugh**

Hometown: Westminster, Md.  
Education: MBA, Mount St. Mary's University  
Experience: Program manager, runDisney  
A2 track: Contract specialist



**Joseph Eric Cooper**

Hometown: Miami, Fla.  
Education: Bachelor's in business administration, UCF  
Experience: Resident assistant, UCF  
A2 track: Acquisition logistics



**Rachael Germansky**

Hometown: Denver, Colo.  
Education: Master's degree in engineering management, UCF  
Experience: Frito Lay  
A2 track: System engineer



**Jason Jerome**

Hometown: Gloucester City, N.J.  
Education: Bachelor's degree in finance, Hawaii Pacific University  
Experience: Marine Corps  
A2 track: Contract specialist



**Matthew Doherty**

Hometown: Merritt Island, Fla.  
Education: Bachelor's in mechanical engineering, UCF  
Experience: Mitsubishi Power Systems  
A2 track: System engineer



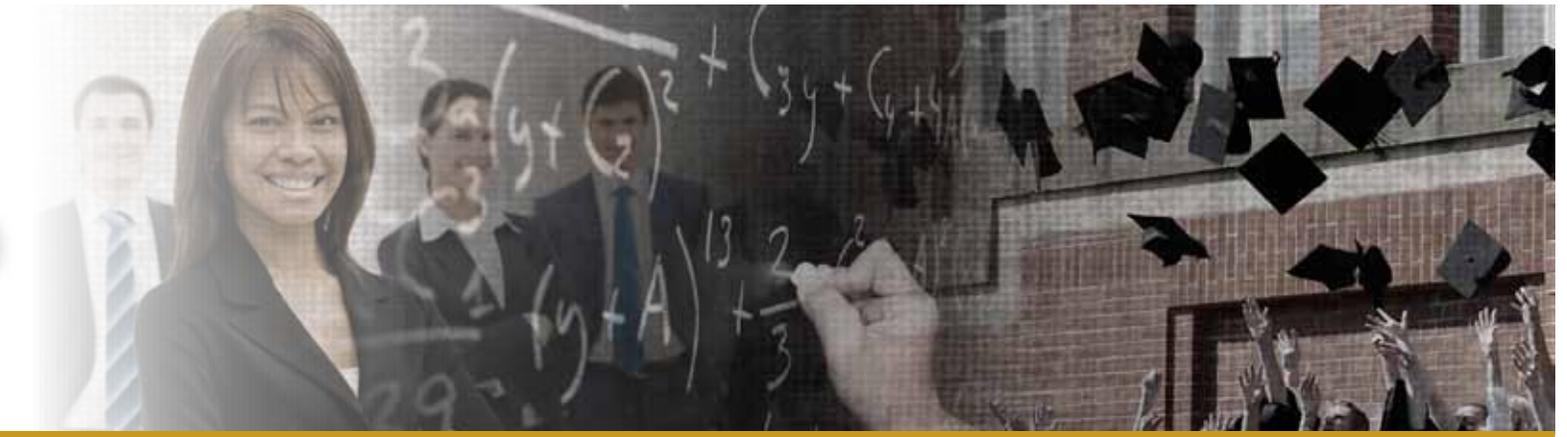
**Janet Grunfelder**

Hometown: Florham Park, N.J.  
Education: Master's degree in aeronautical science, Embry-Riddle; master's degree in information technology management and MBA, Webster University  
Experience: Air Force pilot  
A2 track: Operations research analyst



**David J. Manning**

Hometown: Oviedo, Fla.  
Education: Bachelor's in business management, UCF  
Experience: PEO STRI; Fairwinds Credit Union  
A2 track: Acquisition logistics



**Latoya Michel**  
 Hometown: Denver, Colo.  
 Education: MBA, Webster University  
 Experience: Resource analyst, NASA  
 A2 track: Contract specialist



**Vincent B. Robinson**  
 Hometown: Coram, NY  
 Education: Bachelor's degree, Saint Leo University  
 Experience: Retired Army  
 A2 track: Acquisition logistics



**Daniel Steinbauer**  
 Hometown: Hillsboro, Ore.  
 Education: MBA, University of Phoenix  
 Experience: Navy; contract specialist,  
 Naval Oceanographic Office  
 A2 track: Contract specialist



**Terese Muzio**  
 Hometown: Valrico, Fla.  
 Education: MBA, UCF  
 Experience: Account manager  
 A2 track: Program Analyst



**Federica Robinson-Bryant**  
 Hometown: Quincy, Fla.  
 Education: Bachelor's and master's degree in industrial  
 engineering, UCF  
 Experience: Instructor, Embry-Riddle, Valencia College,  
 Daytona State College  
 A2 track: System engineer



**La Vaughn Terrell Williams**  
 Hometown: Chicago, Ill.  
 Education: MBA, Argosy University  
 Experience: Army; Defense Logistics Agency  
 A2 track: Contract specialist



**Mellisa Poulin**  
 Hometown: Melbourne, Fla.  
 Education: Bachelor's and master's degrees in international affairs,  
 Florida State University  
 Experience: Internships in London and Shanghai  
 A2 track: Acquisition logistics



**Robert Ryan**  
 Hometown: Oviedo, Fla.  
 Education: Bachelor's degree in mechanical engineering, UCF  
 Experience: Lockheed Martin  
 A2 track: System engineer



**Mark Traylor**  
 Hometown: Starke, Fla.  
 Education: Bachelor's in marketing, University of Florida  
 Experience: Navy  
 A2 track: Acquisition logistics



# The Army's First Route Clearance Trainer is Delivered to Fort Bliss

By Staff Sgt. Mike C. Norris, 4th BCT, 1st AD Public Affairs

As a patrol of combat engineers drive down a street in Afghanistan, they come across a pile of garbage with wires sticking out of it. They move their vehicles forward and use special equipment to see if any improvised explosive devices are under the pile of trash. And then it happens... an explosion.

In this case, no one is hurt.

This is because they are in a simulated environment, the Virtual Clearance Training Suite, and the lesson they just learned came with no loss of life or equipment.

Maj. Gen. Dana J. H. Pittard, commanding general of the 1st Armored Division and Fort Bliss, and Sgt. 1st Class Jawn Downing, training developer for engineer combat systems, recently cut the ribbon on the VCTS at Fort Bliss, Texas.

Fort Bliss was the first of 28 posts to receive the VCTS.

The VCTS is built to provide training on route clearance, simulating environments that Soldiers might face during a deployment to Afghanistan.

The suite contains simulations for several different types of vehicles used in the Army today such as the Buffalo, Husky, Medium Mine Protected Vehicle and a simulated Transportable Robotic System.

"It's designed to be identical to the real life," said Downing. "The gas gauge will even go down if you leave it running."

The simulator has all the same controls in the same place as the real vehicles, the same seat, the same steering wheel and the same visibility one would have out of the vehicle.

"If it is uncomfortable in real life, it will be uncomfortable here," said Downing.

The VCTS can be configured to several different vehicle combinations to meet the commander's training needs and may be used for individual or collective training.

It is designed as an engineer training device, but because it can be put into several configurations; it can also be used for convoy



U.S. Army Photo/ Staff Sgt. Mike C. Norris, 4th BCT, 1st AD Public Affairs.

**Maj. Gen. Dana J. H. Pittard, commander of 1st Armored Division and Fort Bliss, and Sgt. 1st Class Jawn Downing, training developer for engineer combat systems, cut the ribbon on a Virtual Clearance Training Suite at Fort Bliss, Texas. Fort Bliss is the first of 28 Army posts to receive the VCTS.**



U.S. Army Photo/ Staff Sgt. Mike C. Norris, 4th BCT, 1st AD Public Affairs.

**Spc. Bobby Sanders, assigned to Team Bliss operations, uses a simulated M2 .50-cal machine gun at the Virtual Clearance Training Suite at Fort Bliss, Texas.**

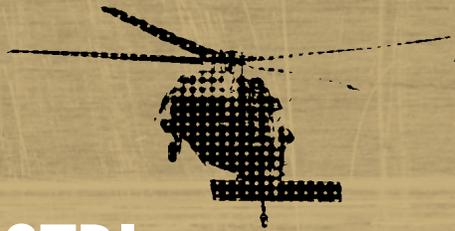
training as well, said Ronnie R. King, the functional manager for combat engineer systems.

The system allows commanders to train their

Soldiers without the expense of a field training exercise, he said.

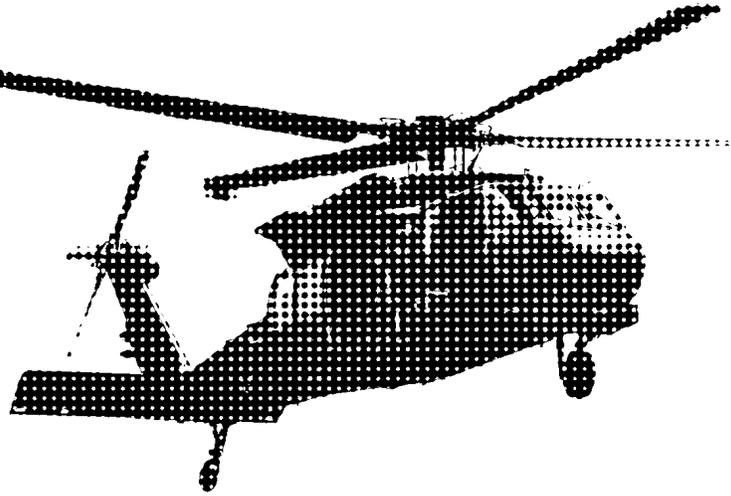
"This is the future," Downing said. "It's setting everything up for what's to come."





**PEO STRI**

U.S. Army Program Executive Office  
for Simulation, Training and Instrumentation



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# CITIZEN STRI

*"Autumn is almost here! What's your favorite fall activity?"*



"My favorite fall activity is to hike to the top of one of our local mountains and just sit in the silence and look out over the beauty God gave us."

- **Ronald Bumgarner,**  
PM ITTS



"Have you ever wanted to sit on the front porch, just being lazy and overlook the grand scene of a wooded hillside in Autumn's full bloom? Nahhhh, me neither; too boring! I want to get off that front porch and go live it! Hiking, biking and "fall"ing over a yellow, green, brown and red leafed wonderland vista... now that is my favorite fall activity!"

- **Maj. Gregory "Gator" Gatrell,**  
Acquisition Center



"My favorite fall activity is drinking hot apple cider; it reminds me of being back home in Maryland!"

- **Devin Hollenbaugh,**  
Acquisition Academy

Want your opinion heard? Answer Octobers's Question! The question is open to the entire workforce. ***Did you know October is National Book Month?*** What's your all-time favorite read and why? Send your response to [Kristen.McCullough@us.army.mil](mailto:Kristen.McCullough@us.army.mil) and put Citizen STRI in the subject line.

## HOLIDAYS & Events

PEO STRI's 10th Birthday  
**OCTOBER 1**

Colors Ceremony  
**OCTOBER 5**

PM Field OPS' Oktoberfest  
**OCTOBER 5**

Columbus Day  
**OCTOBER 8**

AUSA Conference  
**OCTOBER 22-24**

Halloween  
**OCTOBER 31**

## INSIDE <sup>PEO</sup>STR<sup>I</sup>

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industry can make necessary changes and arrive at a solution that can be integrated and procured in months rather than in years, Lt. Gen. Bill Phillips, principal military deputy to the Assistant Secretary of the Army for Acquisition, Logistics and Technology, said.

“That’s changing the paradigm, and changing the thinking about how acquisition works,” he said.

PEO STRI’s Project Manager for Instrumentation, Targets and Threat Simulators (PM ITTS) has been an active participant in the evaluations providing a realistic threat environment for the systems under test.

The Integrated Threat Force provides a suite of tools representative of a realistic and relevant threat, said PM ITTS’ top official Col. Sharlene Donovan. “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. Tools of this sort will undoubtedly find their way into the inventory for collective training.”

In addition to providing the enablers to model the threat environment, the One Semi-Automated Forces (OneSAF) program has also helped to facilitate the NIEs. “OneSAF provides the wrap-around forces, simulating and stimulating things that can’t physically be there,” Oanh Tran, PEO STRI’s assistant project manager for the NIE, said.

While PM ITTS’ Integrated Threat Force and PM ConSim’s OneSAF helped to enable past NIE events—as will they continue to do so in the future, PEO STRI plans to capitalize on the opportunity to have training systems evaluated in future exercises, Tran said.

The Project Manager for Training Devices (PM TRADE) will be added to the mix come fall. During the NIE exercise slated for October 2013, Soldiers will be able to evaluate the effectiveness of a compartmentalized version of IMILES-IWS, or Instrumentable Multiple Integrated Laser Engagement Systems-Individual Weapon System.

Tran noted the importance of these evaluations is getting the assessment from the end-users. “How is [the system] working for you as a Soldier?” she asked. “What can we do to make [the product] better?”

There is a good possibility that PM ConSim’s Intelligence Low Overhead Driver, a product of the Intelligence Electronic

**“The NIE is a critical component to make sure that we can, in an affordable way, continue to modernize and give our Soldiers the best available equipment.”**

**- John McHugh,**  
Secretary of the Army

Warfare Tactical Proficiency Trainer, will be evaluated during the upcoming NIE in the spring of 2013.

“So far, the NIEs have focused mainly on networked [communications], but we are seeing the trend for it to migrate into the training world,” Tran said.

Synchronized fielding of capability sets

every two years will allow the Army to buy the right amount and type of gear for the brigades that need it first, and then incrementally modernize it, instead of spending resources on technology that may be out of date by the time it is needed.

McHugh described the NIE as “one of the most important things strategically that this Army has taken up in recent years” in delivering enhanced capability and laying the groundwork for broad acquisition improvements.

“These are tough economic times, and we owe it to the taxpayers, as well as to the Soldiers, to make sure we’re working in ways that get them those most advanced platforms, and in this case communications equipment, as quickly and as affordably as possible,” he said.

*Some of the information included in this article was previously published May 14, 2012 in the article, “Leaders Say Network Integration Evaluation Improving Army Acquisition,” by Claire Schwerin, U.S. Army Assistant Secretary of the Army for Acquisition, Logistics and Technology (ASA(ALT)) System of Systems Integration Directorate.*



*U.S. Army Photo/Sgt. Richard Andrade*

**First Lt. Chris Emmons of Company B, 1st Battalion, 35th Armored Regiment, 2nd Heavy Brigade Combat Team, 1st Armored Division, based out of Fort Bliss, Texas, gives his Soldiers a convoy patrol brief prior to their reconnaissance mission at Network Integration Evaluation 12.2, May 8, 2012.**

# TEAM ORLANDO IN PHOTOS



*U.S. Army Photo/PEO STRI*

PEO STRI employees participate in the Training Support System Modernization Reviews at Fort Eustis, Va., July 2012 to outline funding requirements for fiscal years 2015 through 2019. Pictured left to right: Brandon Matarese, Shannon Laegeler, Deb Marsden, Irma Guzman and Shelly Moore.



*U.S. Army Photo*

PEO STRI's Associate Director of Contracting Operations, Ken Tedeschi, pictured with the Army's Acquisition Executive, The Honorable Heidi Shyu, participates in the Master Chef-themed dinner competition while attending the Army's PARC Leadership Workshop Aug. 1, 2012. Tedeschi's team won first place.



*U.S. Army Photo*

Members of the Targets Management Office's Mobile Ground Targets Operations team are recognized by Maj. Gen. Lynn Collyar, commander of the Aviation and Missile Command, at the AMCOM Town Hall Aug. 7. The team, comprised of James Story, Rick Watson, Cynthia Reese, Coretta Gaines and Margarette Martin, was commended for their work on achieving cost avoidance through utilization of excess property.



*U.S. Army Photo/PEO STRI*

Four local Wounded Warriors - Staff Sgts. William Castillo and Chris Gordon, Sgt. First Class Manny Colon and Sgt. Noe Santos - visit the Acquisition Academy class Aug. 17 to discuss their experiences in the Army, why they chose to serve and how the Army Values drive their actions.



*U.S. Army Photo*

Brig. Gen. Randal Dragon is transported into the virtual world at Fort Bliss Aug. 22 with the Dismounted Soldier technology. The commanding general of the Brigade Modernization Command crossed a wooden bridge, crawled under barb wire, climbed stairs, opened a door with the turn of a wrist and even engaged virtual enemies.



*U.S. Army Photo/PEO STRI*

Engineer Abdul Siddiqui (right) coordinates PEO STRI's High School Engineering Internship, a part of the organization's Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM) initiative. The students participating in the internship completed the program Sept. 5, earning 75 hours in community service and internship credits.