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WORTH REPEATING

“Uppermost in my mind is ensuring that we have in generations to come what today gives us the finest fighting force the world has ever known. And that’s not our technology -- that comes second. It’s our people.”

~ Secretary of Defense Ashton Carter speaking with students, faculty and leaders at Syracuse University in New York on March 31.

PM TRADE Hosts Industry Panel to Discuss Improving Acquisition Execution Efficiency

By Rick Gregory, PEO STRI Strategic Communications Support Staff

On April 15, PM TRADE hosted a panel of industry experts to give PEO STRI’s acquisition workforce a clearer understanding of the challenges faced by industry when competing for the various contract proposals fielded by the organization.

The panel, comprised of five former PEO STRI leaders who have been working in industry since their retirement from the Army, included: Maj. Gen. Bill Bond, consultant; Col. Matt Fair, Tactical Micro; Col. Mike Flanagan, CACI, Inc.; Col. Jim Ralph, ALATEC, Inc.; and Col. De Voorhees, General Dynamics.

Mr. Rob Wolf, PM TRADE’s strategic requirements integrator, arranged the panel discussion to let the workforce learn firsthand the ways they can assist in improving acquisition efficiencies.

“Most importantly is that you identify what problems you think you can solve from what you learn today from the panel and how you can incorporate them into your day-to-day activities as you develop solicitations,” he told the PEO STRI attendees.

Flanagan, a former project manager for TRADE, kicked off the panel discussion by outlining the business planning process industry undergoes when looking at new business opportunities.

“Companies are looking far out in their business forecasting to determine what markets they want to remain in or get into,”



U.S. Army photo

The members of the PM TRADE Industry Panel listen to introductions before the start of the panel discussions.

he explained. “They buy market analysis reports that break down a market to help companies evaluate whether or not they want to get into that particular market.”

Good, consistent two-way communications was a constant theme heard from each of the panelists and Flanagan was no exception in driving that message home.

“When I was with PEO STRI, I had no idea how much industry invests on what we were saying to them! When you say you are going to put a Request for Proposal (RFP) out on a certain date, it enters everyone’s pipeline,” he said. “Now they want to come talk to you about it and understand it more. It’s a big investment they make in time, energy and money.”

He urged the audience to communicate as much detail as they can provide, including

the vision, scope of work, timeline, etc., to help industry determine if it’s something they want to pursue.

Ralph, also a former TRADE project manager, followed Flanagan to discuss how companies determine the expenditure of their research and development funds.

“Internally company-funded research and development is driven by the anticipated return on investment, the market and the buying behaviors of the organization,” he said. “Do they cancel programs? Is it a Low Price Technically Acceptable (LPTA) proposal? Are they incentivizing innovation or not?”

He explained that those buying behaviors are important when they are going to their leadership and asking for funds for long-term investments.

PROGRAM EXECUTIVE OFFICER



MG JON MADDUX

To The PEO STRI Workforce,

Irish playwright George Bernard Shaw once said, “The single biggest problem in communication is the illusion that it has taken place.”

Based on the results of the latest employee climate survey, that statement by the playwright seems to apply here at PEO STRI since inadequate communications was one of the main areas of concern. Had we known that internal communication was an issue or we would have addressed it sooner. I will address that now.

Communications is a two way street – it is both inherently the responsibility of leaders at all levels to communicate with their teams and it is also a personal responsibility to use all of the communication tools made available to seek out information.

I expect all of our leaders to routinely meet with their teams to relay important information about new Army and organizational policies,

leadership and organizational changes and opportunities that will both enhance their teams’ ability to complete their mission and advance their individual careers. We owe it to our workforce to maintain an ongoing, open channel of communication.

At the same time, I encourage everyone in the PEO STRI workforce to be proactive in using the many communications media available to them.

A wealth of current information is available on the PEO STRI intranet. With one click of the mouse on your Internet Explorer icon you have access to a wealth of information ranging from organizational and vacancy announcements to workforce development opportunities and travel policies. You can even find the current weather conditions!

Attending the Town Hall Meetings is also an excellent way to hear firsthand about the latest news impacting our organization. While they are considered your place of duty at the time they take place, if you legitimately can’t attend, they are videotaped and available on the intranet for your viewing following the event.

This employee newsletter, Inside STRI, is always filled with valuable information about the organization and activities of our workforce. I encourage you to read each issue, the latest of which is always available on the intranet.

As with any issue that is revealed on the employee climate surveys, rest assured I will take whatever action is needed to correct the situation. In this case, it will take a team effort and I have confidence it will be resolved.

Regards from your program executive officer,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jon Maddux".

“ **WE OWE IT TO
OUR WORKFORCE
TO MAINTAIN AN
ONGOING, OPEN
CHANNEL OF
COMMUNICATION.”**

— MG Jon Maddux

Combined Arms Center Experts Say Synthetic Training Environment Will Connect Soldiers Globally

By C. Todd Lopez

Army training will likely always involve Soldiers going to the field and firing their weapons. But in the near future, it will also involve a lot more training in “synthetic” environments to make time in the field more productive and meaningful.

“The next capability will be a leader-focused, Soldier-centric capability that immerses a Soldier, wherever they are at the point of training, in a synthetic environment, that allows us to tailor that environment to the demands of the leader,” said Col. David S. Cannon of the Combined Arms Center, or CAC, on Fort Leavenworth, Kansas.

Experts at the CAC and U.S. Army Training and Doctrine Command, Cannon said, believe the next evolution in Army training will be introduced between 2023 and 2031, and will involve synthetic training environments connected together by a global network that allows Soldiers all over the world to train together, wherever they are, using training regimens that were designed by experts for not just specific mission types, but for missions in specific parts of the world.

“A Soldier in Korea can be trained with a Soldier at Fort Hood,” Cannon said. “A Soldier preparing to deploy in support of a global operation can train his task in that immersive environment and the culture, at home station. And not just one time, like at one of our combat training centers, but numerous times.”

Cannon attended the Association of the United States Army, or AUSA, Institute of Land Warfare Global Force Symposium, March 31-April 2, in Huntsville, Alabama. There, he manned a display that highlighted the evolution of “training the basics” from World War II, to Bosnia to Iraq and Afghanistan.

In World War II, Cannon said, it was clear who the enemy was — they wore a uniform — and there was little interaction on the part of Soldiers with the civilian population. In

Afghanistan and Iraq, he said, it became more unclear who the enemy was, and there was much more interaction with the civilian population, demonstrating an increase in both “ambiguity” and “chaos” in the operating environment.

Cannon said future operating environments will be different than they are today, but ambiguity and chaos on the battlefield will continue to increase. Soldiers must be trained



U.S. Army photo

Command Sgt. Maj. James Sims, with Army Materiel Command, tries out a scenario in Virtual Battle Space using a set of 3D goggles, during the 2015 Association of the United States Army Institute of Land Warfare symposium in Huntsville, Alabama, March 31, 2015.

for such environments, even when it is unclear what exactly those environments will look like.

“The trick is to fight the unknown, to determine the unknown before we know it,” Cannon said.

He said the expectation is to develop training tools that are adaptable to whatever capability a commander needs to train on, and to make it possible for a commander to train his Soldiers wherever they are.

“It’ll be cloud-based, network-delivered, device-oriented capability that is borne on the mission command information network,” he said. “It’ll be wherever the Soldier is located.”

Training courses will be developed centrally, by academics and military experts, and will be constantly updated and upgraded to match the

needs of the commanders that request them and to meet the demands of any environment or situation that needs to be trained, Cannon said.

Soldiers will interface with that information and those scenarios through gear that is not-yet developed, but will help simulate various types of military equipment that a Soldier would need to train for an operation, skill or technique.

“Our Soldiers can relate to this; it’s not necessarily a rifle, but a device that replicates a rifle,” Cannon said. “Not a tank, but a device that replicates being inside a tank. Do you need a tank to train tanking skills? Our answer is no.

“Our answer is you have to have the haptic and tactile and immersive environment wherever you need. You will have an immersive environment, some kind of device, and maybe a projector that maps the room that provides you with what the inside of the tank looks like. And more important, what the environment looks like.”

Units, Cannon said, will have the necessary gear as part of their training equipment, and the information that provides the scenarios and training courses will be available anywhere via the global network.

“So we are building a synthetic training environment which allows us to improve the immersion of our Soldiers — training our units, our larger formations, and our senior echelon leaders in the environment they will encounter in a complex environment.”

The Army already uses simulated training, Cannon said. One example was on display at AUSA. Cannon had a copy of the 3D video trainer “Virtual Battle Space,” or VBS, on a computer there running a scenario that would be familiar to those who conducted operations in Iraq.

But Cannon had a set of 3D goggles attached to the game that allowed conference attendees to immerse themselves in the scenario in 360 degrees — something that is not done in the

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Shyu urges Congress to Give More Authority to Program Managers

By David Vergun, ARNEWS

Heidi Shyu received the attention of senators on Capitol Hill, when she displayed an illustration of a passenger bus, where the driver was an Army program manager, and the passengers were program stakeholders, including lawmakers.

Shyu serves as the assistant secretary of the Army for acquisition, logistics and technology. She testified before the Senate Armed Services Committee, subcommittee on readiness and management support, April 22, about ways to reform the acquisition process within the defense community.

Coming from the private sector, Shyu offered her insight as to how the defense acquisition process compares to acquisition in commercial industry.

The bus served as an analogy to illustrate how within the defense community, the stakeholders — those with the most apparent interest in seeing a program move forward — can actually stymie acquisition and increase its cost through the pursuit of parochial interests. The driver of the bus represents the Army officer, who is often solely responsible for guiding a program through to completion, as its “program manager.”

On the bus, each stakeholder, represented as a passenger, had his own steering wheel and brake, but no gas pedal.

Shyu said stakeholders each have their own agenda, which is not always congruent with the goal of seeing a program through to completion, on time and on budget. Instead, each stakeholder can halt the forward momentum of a project, or change its direction, to ensure their own needs are met; though none are compelled to move the program forward, as with a gas pedal.

PROGRAM DERAILED

With so many “drivers” on board, what inevitably happens to the bus — to the Army program — is that it veers off course and “flips over,” she said. Once that happens, stakeholders from other programs converge to take the failed program’s money for their own “stovepiped” programs. Others might use the opportunity to capitalize on the failure of others involved, so as to increase their own standing in the organization.

The bottom line, she said, is that in government acquisition, forward momentum on a program is hindered by the efforts of those involved to use the program as a vehicle for their own interests; and program failure is relished as opportunity for individuals to succeed in the wake of another’s failure, rather than as a crisis for everybody to work together on.

HOW IT'S DONE IN INDUSTRY

In a private company, with revenue stream generated by company profit rather than taxpayer dollars, engineers, finance personnel, manufacturing professionals and contracting agents “are all incentivized to help the program manager to achieve the cost, schedule and performance.”

In industry, she said, if a program gets into trouble for some reason, “everyone bails in to help the program manager because you’re bleeding cash,” she said. “There’s a financial incentive to reduce loss.”

In regards to program requirements, Shyu said she has seen government program requirements change midstream, without taking into account the impacts the changes would have on cost, schedule or technical risk to the program. In industry, she said, requirements affect performance, cost, schedule and technical risk; the effect on those factors must be calculated and accepted before requirements can be changed.

She also said that private sector program managers are able to eliminate a program requirement if it will not work, if it is determined that it does not serve the goals of the program, or if it unrealistic. No such flexibility exists for program managers in government. Yet, unrealistic requirements are a prime reason for program failure in government, she said.

NEED STABLE BUDGET

Shyu told lawmakers they could help streamline defense

acquisition by ensuring that the Army has a stable budget.

“If you hack away at the program on an annual basis, your baseline is constantly moving and you can’t build a foundational program,” she said.

In industry, Shyu said her budget was not only stable, but she also had the ability to get extra cash from a reserve if the unanticipated happened or if a risk did not pay off as planned. Government program managers are not authorized to hold a reserve budget, she said.

On a positive note, she said congressional support to protect the budget for the Paladin Integrated Management, or PIM, resulted in a successful program. She said the PIM program manager had tenacity and “drove it through” to completion.

BOGGED DOWN IN PAPERWORK

Government program managers are needlessly bogged down in filling out forms and briefing stakeholders to meet regulatory requirements, Shyu said. In one case, she said, a program manager had to travel 31 times to the Pentagon to conduct program briefs.

Additionally, she said, too many layers of oversight and bureaucracy slow down a programs forward momentum.

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U.S. Army photo



Ralph stressed that solid insights into the requirements is imperative for him when trying to sell the program to his organization's leaders.

"What we need is real programs, real dollars and real timelines," Ralph pointed out. "What is said on the government side is parsed and interpreted. Communications is so critical. It takes collaboration between the contractors and the PM shops to make sure everything is understood."

When De Vorhees, another PM TRADE alumni, took the floor he used an example of one of the challenges industry faces when a solicitation hits the streets.

"There was a solicitation that came out in December with the proposal due by January 5th," he said, adding that it was not from PEO STRI. "Between that time there were three amendments and 187 questions. They extended the submission deadline by only one week. Imagine what was happening on the industry side during the process of trying to get it done!"

He also pointed out that at the Request for Information (RFI) phase industry is asked to submit a Rough Order of Magnitude (ROM). That, he said, can lead to some challenges if the requirements aren't clearly communicated with the RFI.

"The worst thing we can do is give you a ROM that says it's going to cost \$10," De Vorhees said, using the dollar figure as an example. "Then your document comes out and we look at it and say 'We can't do that for \$10! That's a \$30 requirement.' When I tell you that, you say, 'What! I budgeted \$10.'"

To avoid that kind of situation when they have to submit a ROM in response to an RFI, he said his company will submit it on the high side.

"We do that to protect us and you," he explained. "When I give you that ROM it is one that we can operate on and execute at that given dollar amount."

Moving to a discussion about the Sources Sought Notice phase, he said that's when it is really important to fully explain the requirements.

"The more information you can give us will make our proposals better, resulting in you getting better competition," he said. "In turn, that will make it harder for the source selection team because you are going to get some very competitive proposals to select from."

He emphasized that there is no interest from anyone in industry to write a bad proposal or



U.S. Army photo

The former project manager for PM TRADE, retired Col. Mike Flanagan, speaks about business development and forecasting to the employees attending the panel discussion.

get a technically unsatisfactory proposal.

When asked by an audience member what the first thing he looks at when a proposal is sent out, without hesitation De Vorhees responded that he goes to the L (Instructions to Offerors) and M (Evaluation Factors for Award) sections of the solicitation packet. Others on the panel agreed.

"The L&M sections are really important to us," he explained. "It tells us how you rank the technical versus the management, past performance, cost and how that comes together is really important to us."

Fair, who had previously served as both deputy program executive officer and the project manager for ITTS, zeroed in on the compliance matrix and having discriminators in the proposals during his session.

"We use the compliance matrix because we can figure out what you want to hear about," he told the audience. "I would also tell you that your compliance matrix is where you should identify your discriminators. If you don't identify the discriminators you're going to get proposals because everyone on the block thinks they have the best solutions."

He also pointed out that early on, industry needs to know if a demonstration is required because it requires a big

investment in time and capital.

"Some companies will say they can't afford to do demonstrations," Fair said. "That's the right answer because you need the right people competing on the programs, not just anyone and their brother."

Wrapping up the session, Bond, the former commander of PEO STRI when it was known as the Simulation, Training and Instrumentation Command (STRICOM), reiterated how important communication is in the acquisition process.

"The key part of what we talked about here is relationships," the retired general said. "We need to be able to build relationships and pass information back and forth so we can apply lessons learned and do things better. Each of us here on this panel wish we would have known when we were in your positions what we know today about how to communicate."

He ended the panel session by complimenting the PEO STRI workforce on the job they do.

"You guys do a great job," he said. "I'm telling you, though, you are leaving 25 percent of the capability on the table. We can do at least 25 percent more for you if we have better communications."

Sexual Assault Awareness and Prevention Month, 2015

By the Office of the Chief of Public Affairs, Department of the Army

Sexual Assault Awareness and Prevention Month (SAAPM) is observed every April to raise awareness and educate communities on the prevention of sexual violence. The Army's 2015 SAAPM theme is "Not in My Squad. Not in Our Army. We Are Trusted Professionals."

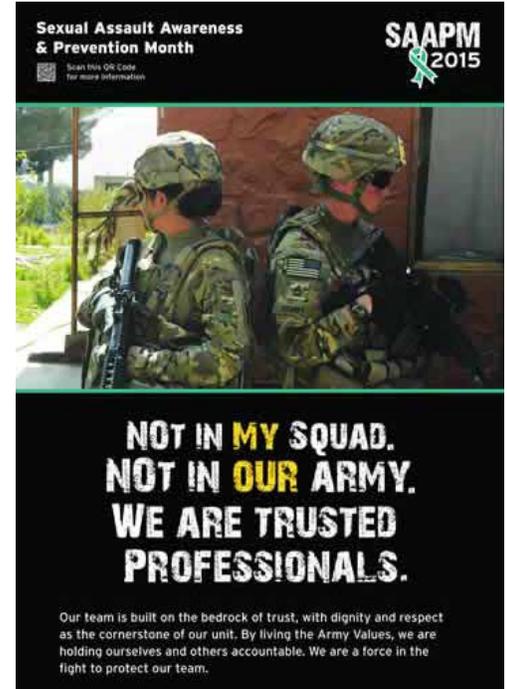
This theme emphasizes the ethical commitment each member of the total Army Family, from the squad level on up, must adopt to ensure every Soldier, Department of the Army Civilian, and their Family members are treated with dignity and respect.

The Army, in conjunction with the Department of Defense (DOD), began observing SAAPM, previously called "Sexual Assault Awareness Month (SAAM)," in 2005 to reaffirm its commitment to eradicating sexual assault and sexual harassment in the ranks and within Army communities. Agencies and organizations throughout the Army plan and execute

commemorative activities to celebrate SAAPM. Many have partnered with outside organizations to spread awareness through local communities.

Through coordinated planning of special events, Army commanders and SHARP proponents will continue to raise awareness, internal and external media attention, and momentum for preventing and ending sexual violence.

SAAPM is an opportunity to highlight the corrosive effect sexual assault has on Soldiers, unit readiness, team cohesion, command climate, and trust. Sexual harassment and sexual assault violate the core Army Values, the Warrior Ethos, and the nation's trust in leaders. By taking part in SAAPM activities, the Army demonstrates its commitment to cultivating a culture focused on trust, dignity and respect that reaffirms the Army's reputation as a mission-ready, values-based organization.



SHYU URGES CONGRESS TO GIVE MORE AUTHORITY TO PROGRAM MANAGERS *continued from page 4*

"Defense acquisition is a highly risk-averse, compliance-based process with a checklist mentality that has become unduly cumbersome," she said.

In the private sector, she said, "I was able to move fast because I could tailor documentation to my program needs." In government, on the

other hand, "there's an extensive amount of mandatory documentation that you have to compile before you can go through a milestone."

PEOPLE MATTER MOST

The Army has been fortunate in having a lot of really good program managers and

program executive officers, Shyu said.

Many of the program managers are retired colonels, who come back as GS-15s, she said. They return to government "because their hearts are in it." They would make much more as an industry program manager, but they forgo that incentive because they want to continue to serve.

Shyu said she is worried because many in the civilian acquisition workforce are retiring and it would be hard to get that knowledge and experience back once they leave.

The Army is also under "significant pressure to reduce the civilian workforce," commensurate with the uniformed drawdown, she added.

Hiring itself is hard enough, she said. As an industry program manager, "I used to get very upset if it took a month to hire someone. Here, I'm delighted when someone is hired within eight or nine months."

“**DEFENSE ACQUISITION IS A HIGHLY RISK-AVERSE, COMPLIANCE-BASED PROCESS WITH A CHECKLIST MENTALITY THAT HAS BECOME UNDULY CUMBERSOME.**”
- HON. HEIDI SHYU



PARENTS, CHILDREN ENJOY

TAKE OUR DAUGHTERS & SONS —to— WORK DAY



Employees Celebrate Diversity Day with Presentations, Music, Food

By Gina Davis, Assistant to the Freedom of Information Act Officer

The Naval Air Warfare Center Training Systems Division (NAWCTSD) celebrated its 8th annual Diversity Day on April 16, 2015 at Warfighter Park. Several members from the Diversity Day committee and other volunteers promoted the event by wearing cultural attire from the Philippines, China, Mexico, and Vietnam and paraded through the de Florez building. They were led by Mr. Michael Alicea, NAWCTSD's deputy equal employment officer, who directed the command event.

Captain Wes Naylor, commanding officer of NAWCTSD, provided opening remarks on this year's theme of a "Culture of Inclusion." Ms. Chérie Smith, acting deputy program executive officer for PEO STRI, also spoke at the annual event.

"The purpose of Diversity Day is to find a moment in everyone's busy schedule and reflect on the different cultures that this country is structured on," Alicea explained. "The concept of multiculturalism is an ideology that values the peaceful coexistence and mutual respect between different cultures; cultures that value similarities and differences together. My final goal is to get the NSA Orlando Teams together and bring awareness of the diverse force that drives innovation; the innovation that makes our warfighters successful on their mission. Diversity is you, me, and everyone together treating each other with dignity and respect. We should strive for acculturation and not assimilation."

The event has always strived to be educational and in the early years had only a simple table with books and pictures about different cultures. These days, it has evolved into a much more interactive educational event with a training session on diversity, live cultural presentations, and food samplings.

This year, attendees were moved to their feet as they enjoyed Latin music performed by Mr. Luis Garcia and Mr. Ricardo Mercado from NAWCTSD. They also got to taste regional cuisine from the booths representing African-American heritage, Asian/Pacific American heritage, Hispanic heritage, European heritage, and Native American heritage. Other treats were also provided by the booths representing the Armed Forces, individuals with disabilities, women's history, and mentoring.

The Diversity Day committee and volunteers are the backbone of the event as they provide the support and their own funds for the food samples and entertainment. They hope that the employees who came out to enjoy the event continue to support it as resources are limited and attendance and participation were lower than in year's past.



“ **WE SHOULD STRIVE FOR ACCULTURATION AND NOT ASSIMILATION.** ”





DIVERSITY DAY



Under Secretary of Defense Launches Better Buying Power 3.0

By Rick Gregory, PEO STRI Strategic Communications Support Staff

Continuing with the Better Buying Power (BBP) initiative launched in 2010 by then Under Secretary of Defense for Acquisition, Technology and Logistics Ashton Carter, current Under Secretary Frank Kendall implemented Better Buying Power 3.0 in a memorandum dated April 9, 2015.



U.S. Army photo

He explained in his memorandum that this latest iteration of BBP is the next step in the continuing effort to increase productivity, efficiency and effectiveness of the Department of Defense's many acquisition, technology and logistics efforts.

"There is more continuity than change in BBP 3.0," Kendall wrote. "Core initiatives focus on ensuring that the programs we

pursue are affordable, mandating that our managers identify and pursue 'should cost' savings opportunities, providing effective incentives to industry, emphasizing competition, reducing bureaucracy, improving our acquisition of contracted services and building our professionalism. We will continue all of these efforts."

He added that BBP 3.0 is a "stronger emphasis on innovation,

sense and my role is to help ensure we are using every means available to adhere to the principles of the initiative."

He added that applying those principles will, in the end, benefit the viability of the programs, provide alternatives for the money saved, ensure the organization is a better steward of taxpayer resources and, most importantly, deliver more capability to Soldiers.

“ BY DOCUMENTING, TRACKING AND REPORTING THE BBP INITIATIVES WE UNDERTAKE, WE WILL THEN BE ABLE TO SHARE LESSONS LEARNED AND APPLY THEM IN FUTURE ACTIVITIES.”

— John Kirch, director, Better Buying Power for PEO STRI

technical excellence and the quality of our products. Efficiency and productivity are always important, but the military capability we provide to our Warfighters is paramount."

To ensure compliance with and success of the BBP initiative is achieved, John Kirch, who formerly served as the organization's G-8, has assumed the role of director, Office of Better Buying Power for PEO STRI.

"I am excited about having the opportunity to oversee the program for our organization," Kirch said. "BBP just makes good business

"Going forward, we want to capture better buying power successes in recent, ongoing and planned initiatives," he said. "By documenting, tracking and reporting the BBP initiatives we undertake, we will then be able to share lessons learned and apply them in future activities."

Kendall ended his memorandum to the field by emphasizing the importance of improving the technical quality of the products fielded.

"We will continue our work to improve productivity and efficiency, but we must also turn our attention increasingly to our ability to innovate, achieve technical excellence and field dominant capabilities," he said.

Inside STRI is an authorized publication for military and civilian members of the U.S. Army Program Executive Office for Simulation, Training and Instrumentation, Orlando, Fla. 32826. *Inside STRI* is published under the authority of AR 360-1 and applies the Associated Press Stylebook industry standard. Contents of *Inside STRI* are not necessarily the official views of, or endorsed by, the U.S. Government, Department of Defense, Department of the Army, or PEO STRI. Editorial material for publication should be submitted to PEO STRI Public Affairs Office, 12350 Research Parkway, Orlando, Fla. 32826. The PAO reserves the right to edit all material submitted for publication. For more information about PEO STRI or to view *Inside STRI* online, visit our website at www.peostri.army.mil
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Army. Putting on the 3D goggles and a pair of noise-cancelling headphones, a “player” stood in as gunner on a Stryker combat vehicle and went along on the mission.

Unlike playing the game on a laptop or desktop computer — which is how Soldiers use the game now — with the 3D headset, the player was immersed in the game. A sensor in front of the player rotated field of vision in the headset as he rotated his head - as though he were actually in the game.

Cannon said the 3D goggles are not yet part of the Army’s VBS program, but he said the experience offers a glimpse of what the Army is hoping for with its synthetic training environment.

The VBS simulator is not the only training capability the Army uses now, Cannon said.

“In the games for training portfolio, we have 92 training support packages that allow a squad leader to actually train his Soldiers on a variety of tasks from home station and in a classroom,” he said. “They don’t have to go out to the range or field — they can do it in the dayroom using a military gaming computer.”

Cannon said there are applications to assemble, disassemble, or clear a weapons system, for instance. And doing it on a simulator is an inexpensive way to get in practice before doing it for real.

“They will get the repetitions they need,” he said. “And we make it fun for them. We make it so they compete against their buddies. So by the time they get to the range, they enter at a higher skill level than we would have if we had put them on a bus and took them to the range and started firing.”

There is great cost in taking Soldiers to the range or to the field to practice tasks for the first time that could have been honed in garrison, Cannon said.

“We do see cost savings here. By being in an immersive, synthetic environment, I’ll get more repetitions. So when I go to the live environment, I’m better. I’m more trained. I’m more capable of doing what the mission calls for. A completely synthetic environment reduces the amount of overhead. The contractors and the people you need to run these large, complex 20th-century technologies — we won’t need them anymore.”

The complexity of the current operating environment, and the expectation of an even more complex future operating environment, means Soldiers need repetition in training, and a lot of it. Time spent training in the field is better spent learning to adapt to changing situations and scenarios than to learning basics which could be taught back home.

“The last 12 years of conflict really showed us what we really need are those rich repetitions,” Cannon said. “And how you achieve that richness in repetitions - you can’t wait to a live environment anymore. We have to provide a synthetic environment that immerses that Soldier and that leader into the complexities that he or she will face.

“We are continuing to build the architecture, leverage the technology, leverage industry, and get the requirement right, to get the capability we want right,” Cannon said. “What we are trying to do is develop a future capability that outpaces technology, our adversaries and the environment.”

SAVE THE DATE

UNDER SECRETARY OF DEFENSE
FOR ACQUISITION, TECHNOLOGY AND LOGISTICS
HONORABLE FRANK KENDALL
PRESENTS

PEO STRI
TOWN HALL

FRIDAY, 21 AUGUST 2015 | PARTNERSHIP III

STRI IN FOCUS



U.S. Army Photo

Graduates from the Lean Six Sigma Master Black Belt Course pose for a photo with their instructors. Seven members of PEO STRI were among the graduates. They include, John Kirch, James Dunn, Jim Golden, Lt. Col. Brett Lord, Scott Nelson, Kyle Platt and Chris Rozycki.



U.S. Army Photo

Ms. Sherrie Moore, contract specialist with ACC–Orlando, recently won Honorable Mention in the 2014 Major General Harold J. Greene Awards for Acquisition Writing in the Acquisition Reform/Better Buying Power category.



Photo by Gina Davis

Army team players pose for a photo after defeating the Navy team 41 – 31 in the annual Army vs Navy game at UCF’s College of Education Gym on March 13.



U.S. Army Photo

Col. Vince Malone (left), PM TRADE, presents the Legion of Merit award to Lt. Col. Scott Tufts during Tufts retirement ceremony on April 7.



U.S. Army Photo

Sgt. 1st Class Larin Harris, a contract specialist with the Army Contracting Command – Orlando won the 2014 Assistant Secretary of the Army for Acquisition, Logistics and Technology Contracting Noncommissioned Officer Award for Contracting Excellence. He received the award during a ceremony in Huntsville, Ala. on April 28.



U.S. Army Photo

Sgt. Maj. Alan Higgs, PEO STRI’s senior enlisted advisor, gives a PEO STRI overview presentation to the Orange County East Rotary Club on March 26.



Photo by Sheldon Parks, CAC-T Innovation Facility

Maj. Gen. Jon Maddux, program executive officer, views a Virtual Battle Space 3 (VBS3) scenario using virtual reality goggles. The demonstration was part of “The Evolution of Training the Basics” exhibit by the National Simulation Center at the 2015 AUSA Global Force Symposium and Exposition RECAP at the Von Braun Center in Huntsville, Alabama March 31st to April 2nd, 2015. He was immersed in a “meeting engagement scenario” that demonstrated a low cost engaging capability.