



INSIDE PEO STRI

S E P T E M B E R 2 0 0 8

IN THIS ISSUE

STRI Employee Stands-Out at Leadership Program... Page 3

Ribbon-Cutting Ceremony Marks New Gaming Lab... Page 4

Acquisition Academy Set to Graduate First Class... Pages 6-7

Get to Know the New EOQ: Guy Richards, PM CATT... Page 12

WORTH REPEATING

“One of the worst days in America’s history saw some of the bravest acts in Americans’ history. We’ll always honor the heroes of 9/11. And here at this hallowed place, we pledge that we will never forget their sacrifice.”

— *President George W. Bush, speaking at the dedication of the Pentagon Memorial Sept. 11, 2008*

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U.S. Army Photo/Doug Schaub

U.S. Army PEO STRI awarded the Route Clearance Training Services contract to Raydon Corp., for the production, fielding and sustainment of the Virtual Route Clearance Trainer. The first phase of the contract was awarded November 2007 and the second phase was awarded August 2008.

STRI Contract Trains Deploying Route Clearance Companies

By Kristen A. Dooley, PEO STRI Public Affairs Officer

Soldiers from the 36th Engineer Brigade, 937th Route Clearance Company were the first unit to prepare for their deployment to Iraq using the Virtual Route Clearance Trainer. The training that was completed February 2008 at Fort Hood, Texas, instructed 213 Soldiers how to operate route clearance vehicles and locate, mark, interrogate and sweep for improvised explosive devices and land mines hidden by insurgents.

These Soldiers, who are now deployed, completed a 40-hour training program that included mission rehearsal exercises in a virtual terrain environment that mirrors the Iraqi cities they are currently operating in. In addition to the training they received in the virtual vehicle simulator, the Soldiers underwent rigorous classroom-based instruction to learn the latest route clearance tactics, techniques and procedures.

Together, the coursework and hands-on instruction were provided to these Warfighters, and others at Fort McCoy, Wis., and Camp Shelby, Miss., through the Route Clearance Training Services contract that PEO STRI’s Product Manager for Ground Combat Tactical Trainers awarded to Raydon Corporation late 2007.

“The Route Clearance Training Services contract allows engineers preparing to deploy in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom the opportunity to train on route clearance equipment at the homestation prior to deploying,” said Jim Crabtree, the program’s project director. “Prior to this contract, all the engineer units sent Soldiers to Fort Leonard Wood’s Counter Explosive Hazards Center for training. Once Soldiers returned to their units, there was no method to maintain their proficiency until now.”

Continued on page 9



HEADQUARTERS

MULTI-NATIONAL CORPS IRAQ
BAGHDAD, IRAQ
APO AE 09342

OPERATIONS SECURITY WARNING

PURPOSE: To ensure all personnel are aware of hotels asking for Common Access Cards and the potential risks involved in providing them.

BACKGROUND: There have been some recent cases in which Americans have been requested to fill out very detailed information when checking into hotels in the Middle East. In one specific instance, a civilian contractor was specifically told that in order to get a room, he needed to allow them to make a copy of his DoD Common Access Card (CAC). When the contractor told him he did not have a CAC, the attendant demonstrated in-depth knowledge of U.S. government employees having CACs. The hotel attendant insisted that he provide a CAC or he would not be able to get a room.



APPLICABILITY: All DoD CAC holders in theater.

DISCUSSION: In the above case, the contractor became suspicious and twice asked why the hotel needed the CAC. Each time, the desk clerk avoided the question and seemed to get nervous. After insisting that he would leave since he did not have a CAC, the contractor was eventually given a room without a CAC. Previously, contractors had not been asked for detailed business information or for their CAC. When checking into a hotel overseas, it is customary to provide name, address, phone number, occupation, and passport information. Valid forms of identification are government IDs such as driver's license and tourist passports. You should avoid presenting identification that identifies you as a U. S. government employee and particularly as a DoD employee. Identifying yourself as a government employee (military or otherwise) can attract unwanted and potentially hazardous attention.

- Do not provide your CAC card for photocopying.
- Be suspicious if the hotel is asking for more information than the country's customs and immigration offices normally require.
- Don't make yourself a target for surveillance, kidnapping, or worse.

RECOMMENDATION: Special purpose IDs such as access badges, etc. should not be used for identification except for the organization which issued them. CACs should not be used for identification outside U.S. government compounds. Use identification that any U.S. citizen would have when checking into hotels. Hold your ground. Protect your personal information and provide only the minimum required.


DANIEL B. ALLYN
Brigadier General, USA
Chief of Staff

ENSURE WIDEST DISSEMINATION AND POST ON BULLETIN BOARDS
OPSEC HASH 08-02

OPERATIONS SECURITY (OPSEC)



ELDP: GIVING DOD EMPLOYEES INVALUABLE INSIGHT INTO A WARFIGHTER'S ROLE AND MISSION

By Kellyn D. Ritter, U.S. Army Acquisition Support Center Contractor

The Department of Defense's Executive Leadership Development Program (ELDP) is a unique opportunity for DoD employees to gain insight, training and exposure to the missions and lives of our Warfighters. Program participants are part of a 10-month program to train with Warfighters in various locations in the U.S. and abroad.

ELDP Benefits

Immersion in real-life training and field experiences gives participants an unparalleled view into the complex roles of a Warfighter. Interaction with military and civilian co-workers, senior leaders and Warfighters gives participants a more thorough understanding of the DoD entity and its mission.

Participant Linda M. Comfort, Program Executive Office Simulation, Training, and Instrumentation, Orlando, Fla., explained the benefits of the program: "We captured a snapshot of what our fine young men and women in uniform do on a daily basis in support of our great Nation. We realized the importance of our decisions made on a daily basis and the impact they had on our Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen, and Marines."

Participants train with each military service, as well as combined and allied forces around the world. According to participant Keith M. Luhmann, U.S. Army Research, Development, and Engineering Command, Picatinny, N.J., participating in the program also provides a new outlook on the term, "joint."

"It gave me great insight into the joint perspective and helped me to look beyond my duties to the overall goals of the DoD, specifically supporting the Warfighter," he said. "I was able to experience so many capabilities of the different DoD services and agencies that I didn't even know existed."

ELDP was established as a Secretary of Defense Initiative in 1985 and reflects the Congressional intent of the *Goldwater-Nichols DoD Reorganization Act of 1986*.

DoD has recognized ELDP's importance and the beneficial results of instructing future senior leaders through hands-on training and firsthand ex-

periences. Gordon England, deputy secretary of defense, has called ELDP the, "premier leadership and development program in the [defense] department."

Currently, the Office of the Under Secretary of Defense for Personnel and Readiness is in charge of the program, with support from the Office of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, J-7, Military Education Division, and assistance from consultants and selected DoD component personnel.

ELDP is a challenging program both physically and mentally. Program participants are carefully chosen and only a few DoD members are selected to participate. Partaking in such an exclusive program is one reason why it is an honor for participants, however being admitted into the program requires sacrifices.

In the words of participant Scott M. Greene, U.S. Army Acquisition Support Center, Fort Belvoir, Va., the program "tests your cognitive ability, physical strength and moral courage. All the while, you still have your regular job to complete as well."

DoD benefits from ELDP because the program members could very well be future DoD senior leaders. Providing them the experience



Credit: Photo courtesy of ELDP staff

At the USAF Academy, PEO STRI employee, Linda Comfort, tries on a USAF parachute worn by cadets during their daily flights.

and knowledge of how the Warfighter works leads to success in their future positions.

Comfort expressed how the program enabled her to understand the Warfighter's desired capabilities. "We were exposed to a small portion of the many facets within DoD, igniting our desire to learn more and achieve more, resulting in the ability to provide enhanced services to those we support on a daily basis," she said.

Luhmann agreed. "We interacted daily with Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen, and Marines, and got their perspective on Operations Enduring and Iraqi Freedom—what is working and what we in the civilian world need to work on," he said.

ELDP Class of 2008

The ELDP Class of 2008 graduated this summer with 53 participants, including six active duty military. Acquisition, logistics, and technology workforce members who completed the program include Corry B. Cox, Army Test and Evaluation Command, Huntsville, Ala., Comfort, Greene and Luhmann.

The ELDP schedule is intensive, as evidenced by this year's class. The class conduct-

Continued on page 4



New Gaming Lab Opens in STRI Annex

By Kristen A. Dooley, PEO STRI Public Affairs Officer

The new Games for Training Lab, located in the Room 1057 of the PEO STRI Annex, officially opened Sept. 12 with a ribbon-cutting ceremony hosted by the Product Manager Air and Command Tactical Trainers (PM ACTT), a subsidiary of Project Manager Combined Arms Tactical Trainers (PM CATT).

Within the lab, the Games for Training team said they hope to accomplish a number of tasks—evaluate commercial products for possible government use, establish interoperability, make use of Web 2.0 and create long-haul capabilities. Most importantly, however, the lab space will be used to “field the best game-based training devices to the Warfighter,” said Leslie Dubow, project director for PEO STRI’s gaming technologies.

To mark the opening of the lab, Dr. Jim Blake, program executive officer for PEO STRI, and Col. Francisco Espailat, project manager for PM

CATT, cut a large yellow ribbon affixed to the entrance of the workspace. Blake and Espailat, along with other senior PEO STRI leaders, also received a guided tour of the lab, and even had the chance to test out one of the training games.

During the ceremony, the many accomplishments of the relatively new Games for Training team was also recognized. It was noted that PM ACTT was the first defense acquisition organization to transition a PC-based game, *DARWARS Ambush!*, from the research and development community to the Soldier. Since the June 2006 transition, “PM ACTT has distributed *DARWARS Ambush!* to more than 400 Army, Air Force, Marines Corps, Navy, Homeland Defense, F.B.I. and R.O.T.C. locations,” Dubow said.

Additionally, PEO STRI’s gaming team spearheaded the first Department of Defense gaming conference, which was supported by all of the services and other governmental agencies. Since

the first gaming conference, PM ACTT supported two subsequent symposiums that drew hundreds of attendees.

In addition to providing a forum to bring together the games-for-training community, PM ACTT’s gaming team assisted the U.S. Army Training and Doctrine Command in establishing the Games for Training program of record in which the program is now fully funded by the Department of the Army through fiscal year 2015.

“In a little more than two years, the [PM ACTT Games for Training] team has gone from a small effort supporting *DARWARS Ambush!* with customer funding equaling less than \$3 million to a fully-staffed team with \$56 million to provide deploying Soldiers gaming products that fill crucial training gaps in [improvised explosive device], language, cultural and negotiation training,” Dubow commented. ■



U.S. Army Photo/Doug Schaub

Dr. Jim T. Blake (center), Col. Francisco Espailat (left), and Lt. Col. Gary Stephens (right) cut the ribbon Sept. 12 to signify the official opening of PEO STRI’s new Games for Training Lab.



U.S. Army Photo/Doug Schaub

After the ribbon-cutting ceremony and a tour of the new workspace, PEO STRI senior leaders try out the new Games for Training Lab housed in the first floor of the Annex building.

ELDP... Continued from page 3

ed orientation Sept. 5, 2007, began core curriculum training Oct. 20, 2007 and graduated from the program June 12, 2008.

Their training included two core curriculum training weeks in Connecticut, seven training days with the U.S. Pacific Command, 10 training days with the U.S. Navy, U.S. Marine Corps, and U.S. Coast Guard in San Diego, Ca., seven training days with the U.S. Air Force in Las Vegas, Nev., and Colorado Springs, Co., and training with two forward-

deployed units visiting Korea, Belgium, Italy and Germany. The core curriculum culminated with a week of Army training at Fort Benning, Ga.

A unique part of the ELDP experience is participating in an intense learning forum with fellow DoD coworkers. Luhmann said, “Beyond the curriculum of the program, I also got to know 52 other DoD employees, each with a wealth of experience in their own areas of responsibility. While every person was very

different, our class was united in our drive to support our troops and the DoD as a whole. I would recommend the class to any young Army civilians or Soldiers who want to do more for the service members, understand their personal strengths and weaknesses and lead by example in DoD.”

Article originally printed in *Army AL&T Online*. ■



Let's Talk Finance: Making an Impact

By John W. Kirch, PEO STRI Chief Financial Manager

One of the most unpleasant moments in the Finance Directorate is getting a call from Headquarters Department of the Army (DA) and hearing the voice on the other end of the line say, "We're pulling back \$150 million across the Army for an urgent requirement and PEO STRI's portion is expected to be \$10 million. Please let us know by close of business tomorrow which programs it should come from."

A phone call or e-mail like that drives F-Dir into scramble mode. Within minutes, our Integration Office will send out an e-mail to all the business managers for impact statements.

Although our suspense is short, F-Dir attempts to give the project management shops (PMs) as much time as possible to put together adequate responses to save their funding, if at all possible. In doing so, the directorate is left only with an hour or two to consolidate all the responses, run sanity checks on them, and make any necessary edits to keep a consistent format and bolster the impact statement.

If we are able to come up with strong and supportable impact statements, we are often able to minimize or avoid having to return funding. This is absolutely a team effort among our F-Dir staff and all the PMs.

Here are some essential tips for preparing impact statements that will increase the likelihood of retaining your program's funding:

Getting Started

- Identify who is the recipient and when they need it.
- Check previous impact statements.
 - Do not reinvent the wheel.
 - Do not contradict a recent position.

Format

- In the title, state the issue being addressed.
- State the purpose in one sentence.
- Give background if needed, but keep it brief.
- Be concise. Determine if your impact statement should be a few bullets or a short paragraph, but no more than one page. Remember, less is better.
- Do not presume the reader knows the subject or acronyms.
- Write in a direct, assertive tone.

Content

- Focus on the target audience.
- Only address the specified question.
- Make your first sentence the impact. Often the reader does not have time to read a page of background. If they immediately see the impact, they may immediately take it off the cut list.
- Do not over-exaggerate; you may have to substantiate your claims.
- When considering what to say and what not to, keep in mind the chart below.

The problem with the "Don't Say" list above is the "so what?" test. If the Army Budget Office (ABO) or DA does not see an answer given to them, they will assume there is no significant impact.

Also, they are increasingly looking at obligation rates and disbursement rates to help them make decisions. They may interpret poor rates as either you did not need the money or you planned poorly and can probably wait another six months to get it back if you have waited this long to use it.

Transmitting

- Coordinate the impact statement through your business unit's proper channels.
- Submit the statement on time.

- If e-mailing, send it as an attachment that can be easily saved by the recipient.
- Include a very brief cover letter stating what you are sending and in response to what question. The recipient may be working multiple actions on similar subjects, so you want to provide impacts to the appropriate issue.

Remember the "Don'ts"

- Do not use confusing language.
- Do not make statements like, "it provides 10 percent less effort."
- Do not say the cut will reduce labor and travel.
- Do not restate the system description.
- Do not use this as a venue for whining.
- Do not blame or attack someone else.
- Do not refer the reader to other documents assuming they have them at hand.
- Do not forget to run spell-check.

Finally, keep the best interest of the Army in mind. Follow these tips to preserve your funds in an honest and ethical way and let the senior leadership do their job, which is to weigh all the facts and make decisions that are best for the Army.

The F-Dir staff is not just here to pass along tasks, but to be used as a resource to help you protect your funding. ■

Attributes of Impact	Don't Say	Say
Context	Five systems will not be deployed.	Five of 10 systems will not be deployed.
Capability	Training will be reduced.	Five of 10 training sites will not have critical training systems.
Ultimate Impact	The contracting action will be put on hold.	Soldiers' lives will be at risk in theater due to insufficient training as a result of the possible contract actions put on hold.
Business	Funding will not be available for fielding at the planned rate.	Funding cut will cause loss of key contractor personnel, increased unit cost, and longer time to ramp back-up. Potential of termination cost may exceed funding cut.



Jean Burmester, Dean
 Hometown: San Jose, Ca.
 Education: B.S., Rollins College, and M.B.A., Florida Institute of Technology
 Work experience: Director, ADL Co-Lab; senior project director, AVCATT

PEO STRI's newly established Acquisition Academy is set to graduate its first class Oct. 2. The Academy's interns completed coursework that covered everything from an organizational overview and project manager-specific briefings to detailed presentations on the many facets of Army contracting.

"I believe A2 provided an opportunity for new federal employees to become acclimated with civil service, discover what the Army is all about, and gain an understanding of PEO STRI's mission," said Jean Burmester, dean of the Acquisition Academy. "The interns learned not only from the instructors, but also from each other."

"Their primary focus was to learn the rules, regulations and the basic skills needed to be a contract specialist," Burmester noted.

The bulk of the course material was geared to contractual issues that PEO STRI primarily deals with, for example source selection, service contracts and indefinite delivery, indefinite quantity contracts.

"The Academy was very well planned out," said Keith Thomas, an A2 intern. "The instructors have been great, and the experience has prepared me to succeed as a contract specialist at PEO STRI."

In addition to becoming familiar with government contracting, the curriculum included topics like Army 101, getting around PEO STRI, getting to know the organization's products and services, and visiting various contractors.

"A2 has been a great experience," said Purvi R. Kapadia, an intern at the Academy. "Having met with all the project managers from different shops gave us the opportunity to see what time of products we will be dealing with in the organization."

Although the coursework was quite rigorous, the interns said that it has been a rewarding experience because they have learned a lot about civil service and Army contracting.

"My time here has been amazing. I cannot imagine a better place to start my career," said Adam Baldwin, an A2 intern.



Adam Baldwin
 Hometown: St. Petersburg, Fla.
 Education: Business management
 Work experience: College graduate



David Barger
 Hometown: Marietta, Ohio
 Education: B.S. in administration and M.B.A. in business management, TUI University
 Work experience: U.S. Army



Lauren Bushika
 Hometown: Orlando, Fla.
 Education: B.B.A. in marketing, Stetson University
 Work experience: Advertising & sales



Marvin J. Hagan
 Hometown: Biloxi, Miss.
 Education: M.S. in multinational business operations, Florida State University
 Work experience: Summer hire, U.S. Air Force



Terri L. Harvey
 Hometown: Frostproof, Fla.
 Education: B.S. in psychology, Bethune-Cookman University and M.B.A. in health services administration, Nova Southeastern University
 Work experience: Insurance and car rental industry; student records coordinator, Nova Southeastern University



Purvi R. Kapadia
 Hometown: Orlando, Fla.
 Education: M.B.A., University of Phoenix
 Work experience: Banking industry



David McGovern
 Hometown: Oviedo, Fla.
 Education: B.S. in business management, University of Central Florida
 Work experience: Florida Hospital Emergency Room



Tony Pham
 Hometown: Saigon, Vietnam; Orlando, Fla.
 Education: M.B.A., Webster University
 Work experience: Hotelier



Jennifer Salinas
 Hometown: Dunnellon, Fla.
 Education: B.S. in finance, University of Florida
 Work experience: Program analyst with Stanley Corp., supporting PEO STRI



Danielle Cador

Hometown: Anchorage, Ala.
Education: B.S. in marketing and management and M.S. in international business, Regis University
Work experience: Ent Federal Credit Union; Enterprise Rent-A-Car



Virginia Christensen

Hometown: Germany; Oviedo, Fla.
Education: B.S. in technical management, DeVry University
Work experience: Real estate title agent



Philip Duncan

Hometown: Not specified
Education: M.S. in industrial engineering, University of Central Florida
Work experience: U.S. Air Force agent



MaryJane Gresko

Hometown: Oviedo, Fla.
Education: B.S. in business administration
Work experience: Telecommunications and publishing



Allison Laera

Hometown: Orlando, Fla.
Education: B.S. in business management, pursuing an M.B.A. both from the University of Central Florida
Work experience: A-1 Block Corp.



Jason Malak

Hometown: West Deer Township, Penn.
Education: M.B.A., University of Central Florida
Work experience: Everything – from working on cars to procurement



Denise Martin

Hometown: Corunna, Mich.
Education: M.B.A.
Work experience: Communication security



Scott McCabe

Hometown: Warsaw, N.Y.
Education: B.S. in economics, State University of New York, Geneseo
Work experience: Accountant, University of Central Florida



Brian Serra

Hometown: Rockledge, Fla.
Education: B.S. in business administration and marketing, University of Central Florida
Work experience: Technical recruiter



Iain Skeete

Hometown: Navarre Beach, Fla.
Education: B.S. in marketing, University of Central Florida
Work experience: Luxury sales



Anthony Stephenson

Hometown: Orlando, Fla.
Education: B.S. in business management, University of Phoenix
Work experience: Marketing, Orlando Regional Medical Center



Keith Thomas

Hometown: Little Rock, Ark.
Education: B.S. in business management, University of Central Florida
Work experience: New Client Relations, Charles Schwab

ACQUISITION ACADEMY



TEAM ORLANDO IN PICTURES

Clearance Companies... *continued from cover*

The contract was awarded November 2007 in response to an urgent needs statement from the United States Army Engineer School at Fort Leonard Wood, Mo., to support Soldiers who operate the Mine Protected Clearance Vehicle Buffalo, Vehicle Mounted Mine Detector Husky, and the Medium Mine Protected Vehicle RG-31.

“This was a milestone for training combat engineer units since it was the first virtual simulator provided to instruct route clearance and counter-IED operations,” said Fran Fierko, deputy project manager for PEO STRI’s Project Manager for Combined Arms Tactical Trainers. “The [contract] provides the capability to conduct pre-deployment training on route clearance operations that would not have been possible otherwise due to the lack of tactical vehicles in [the U.S.]”

Since the contract award, more than 1,000 Soldiers trained under the Route Clearance Training Services contract. The majority of the training has been for newly formed route clearance companies that need instruction before they deploy to Iraq or Afghanistan. The first time the Soldiers operate an actual route clearance vehicle is in theater.

Although this may seem like quite a leap, “the Soldiers have said they think it’s the best training they’ve ever received since they have been in the Army,” Crabtree noted.

A second award of the Route Clearance Training Services contract was made August 2008. Much like the initial phase of the contract, brand new route clearance companies who are preparing to deploy will receive both classroom instruction and hands-on training. If all the options are exercised, both phases of the contract could total more than \$67 million.

For the second phase, however, the Virtual Route Clearance Trainer will be amplified with four Buffalos, four RG-31s, two Huskys, a Joint Explosive Ordnance Disposal Rapid Response Vehicle, an explosive ordnance disposal robot, and five instructor-operator and after action review stations. This is quite a step up from the first phase that fielded four Buffalos (one of which could convert to a Husky) and two RG-31s.

Additionally, the follow-on phase will include fieldings to Forts Leonard Wood, Carson, Riley, Bragg, Drum, Hood, Lewis and White Sands Missile Range—more than double the locations than it was fielded the first time around.

“The Route Clearance Training Services contract will ensure the maneuver commander receives trained and combat ready engineers that can provide the mobility expected on the battlefield,” Crabtree said. ■



U.S. Army Photo/Doug Schaub

The Association of the United States Army Sunshine Chapter tied for the best AUSA chapter in the southeast region. AUSA Sunshine Chapter president, Mary Trier, presented the award to Dr. Jim Blake, PEO STRI program executive officer, July 21 because the trophy will be housed at PEO STRI.



U.S. Army Photo/Doug Schaub

The Project Manager Combined Arms Tactical Trainers celebrated a Change of Charter ceremony July 21 when Col. Craig Langhauser (left) handed over the reigns to Col. Francisco Espailat (right), former product manager for Force Protection at the Program Executive Office Combat Support and Combat Service Support.



U.S. Army Photo/Doug Schaub

Col. Kevin Dietrick, former deputy program executive officer for PEO STRI, recently retired from the U.S. Army. An Aug. 8 ceremony officiated by Dr. Jim Blake, program executive officer for PEO STRI, was held to mark his retirement.



U.S. Army Photo/Doug Schaub

The Project Manager Constructive Simulation celebrated a Change of Charter ceremony Sept. 5 as Col. Karen Saunders, former product manager for Future Combat System Battle Command, received the charter from Col. Ken Wheeler, who assumed the responsibilities as deputy program executive officer for PEO STRI.

PEO STRI: EMBRACING THE NEW WORLD OF SECURITY

By Bill Osborne and Donnette Hart, PEO STRI Security Office

Some of us have been around long enough to remember when offices relied on typewriters, carbon paper and the mail as a regular means of conducting business. Times have changed and the security community is keeping up with these changes by automating many of the functions related to security clearances.

Just a few years ago, a certificate for a newly granted security clearance was sent from the U.S. Army's Central Clearance Facility (CCF) to an individual's security office. The certificate was kept on file and used as the source document to prove a person's eligibility for access to classified information.

Today, the practice of using a "Security Clearance Certificate" is obsolete. The CCF has not issued a clearance certificate in more than three years. The Department of Defense now uses an automated record system called the Joint Personnel Adjudicative System, or JPAS.

JPAS gives security managers real-time access to security clearance records for anyone in the DoD who has, or recently had, a security clearance. This greatly improves the way security offices conduct business.

Since the CCF no longer mails clearance certificates, electronic notifications are sent through JPAS to each person's security office whenever a clearance is granted or record is updated.

Another improvement brought about with the JPAS system is the ability to submit Visit Request forms electronically. The old method involved preparing Visit Request forms online, submitting them to the security office for verification and then faxing the form to the site to be visited. Because the forms contained a significant amount of data, there was always a chance for errors.

Now, all that is required to send a visit through JPAS is to send an e-mail to the security office. The e-mail should identify the travel destination's JPAS Security Management Office code, name and phone number of the visit point of contact, dates of travel, and the names of the individuals traveling. The process is faster, more efficient and more secure because it is transmitted through the

JPAS system.

The most obvious impact of the JPAS system has been the increased speed most transactions occur. For example, the time taken between investigation closure and clearance award has been greatly reduced. This has really been noticeable in the area of Top Secret-Sensitive Compartmented Information clearances. Previously, those adjudications took an average of two years to complete and now take an average of six months.

Updates to records are immediate because we never have to wait for certificates to arrive in the mail. Automation of security clearance records now enables security personnel to immediately verify eligibility for access to classified information. If access is suspended or revoked, the person's record is annotated and they are not inadvertently granted access to classified information or a secured facility.

Change is sometimes difficult to embrace. When it comes to automating security clearance processes, however, the advantages of these changes far outweigh the negatives. We can now fondly reminisce upon the *good old days* of typewriters, carbon paper, and clearance certificates. ■

"Change is sometimes difficult to embrace. When it comes to automating security clearance processes, however, the advantages of these changes far outweigh the negatives."



HOLIDAYS Events

Sept. 19-22

NGAUS Conference

Sept. 26

Leadership Development Seminar

Oct. 2

Acquisition Academy Graduation

Oct. 3

Oktoberfest

Oct. 6-8

AUSA Conference

Oct. 13

Columbus Day

Protocol TIP OF THE MONTH

By Marge Hadbavny, Protocol Officer

Business Cards:

The Handshake You Leave Behind

An attractive card, properly presented, makes a tremendous impression. Here are five tips to help you present your card in the most professional manner.

1. Do not force your card on anyone. Politely ask, "May I give you my card?"
2. Do not give out a business card that is soiled or out-of-date. Make sure your card contains correct information.
3. Carry your cards to all business events. Also, carry a supply when you attend social events where business opportunities may develop.
4. Present your card with the print facing the recipient. The other person should not have to turn it around to read it.
5. Carry your cards in a nice case to keep them fresh and protected. It makes a statement about you.

New business cards were recently created for the PEO STRI workforce. The template can be found on the Graphics and Presentations SharePoint site. Note that the PEO STRI Graphics Department is not permitted to print business cards and each employee must purchase and use his or her own cardstock for the cards. ■



"How are you dealing with the slumping economy?"



"One way I've been dealing with the slumping economy is by eating out less. In the past, I enjoyed eating out as many as four times per week. Now, that isn't as doable. I eat out maybe once a week, including breakfast and lunch."

Michelle Rhyne,
PM CATT

U.S. Army Photo/Doug Schaub



"To deal with the slumping economy, my wife and I are reducing the number of times that we eat out, increasing the energy efficiency at our home, and combining errands into one big trip instead of multiple small trips."

Maj. Timothy McGrew,
PM CATT

U.S. Army Photo/Doug Schaub



"I have been staying home more and doing more things for entertainment that are free: going to the beach, walking to the community pool and racquetball courts, and watching movies on the free on-demand. I also let my lawn guy go, and cut my wireless minutes by 75 percent."

Caron L. Rigali,
Acquisition Center

U.S. Army Photo/Doug Schaub



"How am I dealing with the slumping economy? By watching the stock market fall and crying at the same time."

Mark St. Moritz,
Acquisition Center

U.S. Army Photo/Doug Schaub

Want your opinion heard? Answer October's Question!

"Will you vote in the upcoming presidential election? Why or why not?"
Send your response to Kristen.Dooley@us.army.mil and put Citizen STRI in the subject line.





By Kristen Dooley, PEO STRI Public Affairs Officer

Guy Richards, chief engineer for Product Manager Special Operations Forces Training Systems (PM STS), was named PEO STRI's Employee of the Quarter at the Sept. 4 Town Hall Meeting.

"His initiative, acquisition experience and dedication to the product manager and to his fellow team members were critical to PM STS meeting mission goals in support of the Warfighter," wrote Lt. Col. Lee Dunlap, PM STS product manager, in Richards' Employee of the Quarter nomination letter.

In May 2008, four of PM STS' assistant product managers either retired or transitioned out of the organization. So that no task or assignment fell through the cracks, Richards provided "critical technical and management oversight, and guidance to engineers and acquisition logisticians that were assigned as acting project directors until the new assistant product managers arrived," Dunlap said.

Between May 2008 when the former assistant product managers left and August 2008 when the new ones arrived, Richards coordinated with all the acting product managers to ensure that program management efforts were complete, and engineering and technical efforts were accomplished. Additionally, he mentored and provided guidance to the acting assistant product managers.

This was no small duty being that PM STS is responsible for supporting the U.S. Special Operations Command's simulation and training efforts, and the U.S. Army's Call for Fire Trainer program.

"Mr. Richards performed far beyond what is expected from a chief engineer, and he ensured PM STS was able meet its mission goals and satisfy customer requirements," Dunlap wrote.

Richards, a PEO STRI employee since January 1995, said he best likes working at PEO STRI because of the "challenging and dynamic programs that directly benefit the Warfighter."

As for the future, Richards' professional goal is to "continue to support the Warfighter with an eye on retirement."

Outside of work, Richards said he enjoys spending time with his family and traveling. ■

"His initiative, acquisition experience and dedication to the product manager and to his fellow team members were critical to PM STS meeting mission goals in support of the Warfighter."



Hails and Farewells

Hails

MAJ Jeffrey Dudley	PM CATT
Joseph Fratarcangeli	Legal
Thomas Kehr	PSG
MAJ Thomas Nguyen	PM CATT
Thomas Petrillo	CIO
Michelle Rhyne	PM CATT
COL Karen Saunders	PM ConSim
James Stauffer	BOO

Farewells

Virginia Crews	PM ITTS
COL Kevin Dietrick	DPEO
Amy Donlin	PM ITTS
Joyce Heine	CSG
Douglas Hoover	PM CATT
COL Craig Langhauser	PM CATT
John Loper	Acq. Center
Bobby Macedonia	CSG
Judy Taylor	PSG

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