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PEO EIS hosts newcomers brief at HQ — Smith tells new employees to speak truth to power

BY SUSAN MCGOVERN, PEO EIS STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION DIRECTORATE



PEO Chérie A. Smith (center) and acting deputy PEO Brendan Burke (center right) welcome new employees to PEO EIS. (U.S. Army photo by Cecilia Tueros.)

Russell said it is crucial to understand the big picture. “It’s important to know who your stakeholders are and how what you do supports the big picture,” Russell said.

Program executive officer Chérie Smith provided valuable advice to new employees as well, stressing the importance of clear and simple communication. “I expect you to give truth to power,” Smith said. “If you are talking to someone senior and they ask you a question, provide your truth. But be able to back it up with metrics and explain your position in a clear and concise way. When briefing senior stakeholders, keep it simple,” she continued. “Nobody really cares about software as much as I want to talk to them about it. They care about the results. When you are thinking about how you talk about

Starting any new job can be daunting, particularly in an organization as large and complex as PEO EIS. To make the transition easier, incoming staff can now attend a quarterly newcomers orientation, organized by Program Protection and Planning division operations director, Matt Gohil. The first such orientation, hosted Jan. 17, 2019, at Fort Belvoir, Virginia, featured informative presentations from each program within PEO EIS and gave employees the opportunity to understand senior leaders’ expectations.

“You have joined an organization that wants to help you be successful,” Gohil told new employees attending the event.

With a diverse portfolio that supports 37 product offices and 71 acquisition programs, PEO EIS has arguably more stakeholders than any other PEO in the Army. With that in mind, chief of staff Col. Matt

“If you hit a challenge and are struggling with something, ask who else has had this problem. I’ll bet anyone here that you won’t find a problem that no one else at EIS has solved.”

— Acting Deputy PEO, Brendan Burke

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the money, the message and the schedule, think of it in your stakeholders' terms. What does it get for them?"

Brendan Burke, acting deputy program executive officer, spoke about talent management and the importance of planning for career progression. He encouraged employees to seek out mentors and take the initiative in developing their careers. "Develop a long-range career path," Burke said. "What do you want to be? What does it take to be that and what is the pathline to do it?"

Burke also encouraged staff to reach out to teammates when faced with a problem. "We have a lot of really smart people," Burke said. "If you hit a challenge and are struggling with something, ask who else has had this problem. I'll bet anyone here that you won't find a problem that no one else at EIS has solved."

The next newcomers' orientation is tentatively scheduled for July 2019, and further details will be provided. Staff can download slides from the January brief on SharePoint at <https://peoeis.kc.army.mil/BriefingLibrary/Forms/AllItems.aspx>.

Army network upgrades improves readiness — I3MP completes network infrastructure modernizations at Pine Bluff Arsenal and Joint Interagency Task Force South

BY SCOTT SUNDSVOLD, INSTALLATION INFORMATION INFRASTRUCTURE MODERNIZATION PROGRAM



Josh Mizell (left) and Ray Harbison (right), both IT specialists with Pine Directorate of Information Management, check the communication lines on newly installed network switches. (U.S. Army photo by Rachel Selby, Pine Bluff Arsenal.)

Installation Information Infrastructure Modernization (I3MP) completed network modernization projects at Pine Bluff Arsenal in Jefferson County, Arkansas, and Joint Interagency Task Force South at Naval Air Station Key West, Florida, during the third quarter of 2018.

Pine Bluff Arsenal provides Soldiers with specialized ammunition; smoke and chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear defense capabilities through expert manufacturing, storage and logistics. Pine Bluff is one of nine Army installations in the United States that previously stored chemical weapons until 2010.

Joint Interagency Task Force South, referred to as JIATF South, is a United States multiservice, multiagency task force. JIATF South executes detection and monitoring of illicit trafficking in the air and maritime domains, and facilitates international and interagency interdiction to enable the disruption and dismantlement of illicit and converging threat networks in support of national and hemispheric security.

"JIATF South runs 24-hour operations, detects and monitors illicit trafficking in the air and maritime domains which created a particularly challenging environment to perform the routine upgrade of the network switches," said Marshal Larkey, a system engineering and technical assistance contractor. "By working within the availability of the different sections in JIATF South, the network modernization project completed without interfering with operations."

"The Army is fixing the wired network components at installations that have reached the end of their lifecycle to enable the current fight and to prepare for the next fight," said Col. Enrique Costas, the project manager for Defense Communications and Army Transmission Systems (DCATS). "At Pine Bluff Arsenal, improving the network infrastructure improves the Army's readiness to win the fight tonight," Costas explained. Costas manages strategic satellite and terrestrial communications programs that support the Army, Joint Services, National Command Authority and combatant commanders.

"Readiness remains the Army's priority one," said Kevin Chinn, the acting deputy product manager for I3MP. "The Pine Bluff and JIATF South network modernization projects support Army readiness by modernizing, streamlining, standardizing and hardening the Army network."

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Chinn’s integrated project team, known as Network Modernization – CONUS or NETMOD-C, upgrades networks by installing 10 Gbps switches and routers at Army installations within the continental United States to improve the overall Army network.

“As network switches reach the end of their product life, the Army is following industry best practices to increase the capacity of the enterprise network transport,” Chinn explained. “This improvement assures sufficient bandwidth for unified communications services, such as voice over internet protocol, instant messaging and video teleconferencing.”

These network modernizations increase the efficiency, security, predictability and reliability of the network to ensure Soldiers have sufficient bandwidth to complete their mission.

“NETMOD has been great for the command and my team,” said Kevin Johnson, the JIATF South network engineer who served as project lead. “It’s given us a big technology refresh with top notch equipment and lifecycle support at no extra cost to the Command. The network layout has provided a fast, redundant and more fault-tolerant Local Area Network (LAN). My team and I are more confident in our efforts to provide our command the network necessary to perform our mission 24/7.”

CHESs briefs the MICCS at Fort Bragg

BY TRICIA SHELLEY, COMPUTER HARDWARE, ENTERPRISE SOFTWARE AND SOLUTIONS



Computer Hardware Enterprise Software and Solutions (CHESs) representatives traveled to Fort Bragg, North Carolina, and provided a CHESs 101 program overview to the Mission and Installation Contracting Command (MICC) on Jan. 24, 2019. The CHESs 101 briefing was provided by CHESs’ Enterprise Solutions Division director, Stacy Watson, and software product officer, Mitsuko Coulby. More than 150 Army billing officials, resource

managers, government purchase card holders and contracting specialists attended and briefed on the CHESs contract vehicles, statement of non-availability processes, information technology approval system waivers, the reverse auction tool and the consolidated buy (CB) program. The briefing offered participants the training, tools and guidance necessary to submit request for quotes (RFQs), request for proposals, requests for information, and reverse auctions as well as how to compare products and prices from the CB.

“Training events like this are very important to the CHESs program,” explained Doug Haskin, product lead for CHESs. “It gives us a chance to provide updates directly to our customer base and provides us with real time feedback, as well as the opportunity to personally respond to questions and comments from the field concerning our contracts and services. CHESs gains just as much value from conducting engagements like this as much as the customers who participate.”

CHESs provides a monthly training and tutorial session in addition to requested specialized trainings. The monthly trainings include the CHESs 101 brief, which provides detailed information about our hardware, software and services contracts; an IT e-mart tutorial that highlights the basic capabilities, functions and features of the CHESs IT e-mart; and an request process and reverse auction tutorial that will walk users through the request process tool to submit RFQs and demonstrate how to create a reverse auction. The training and tutorial schedule is posted on the CHESs event calendar which can be found on the IT e-mart at <https://chess.army.mil>.

For additional information or to schedule a CHESs briefing or specialized training please contact Tricia Shelley at tricia.a.shelley_ctr@mail.mil.

FEBRUARY 2019

UPCOMING EVENTS

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THUR	FRI	SAT
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28		

- 18 FEB: Presidents’ Day
- 28 FEB: Lunch & Learn, Fort Belvoir

Consolidated Buy 28 open for ordering

BY TRICIA SHELLEY, COMPUTER HARDWARE, ENTERPRISE SOFTWARE AND SOLUTIONS

The Computer Hardware, Enterprise Software and Solutions (CHES) Consolidated Buy – 28 (CB-28) is open for ordering. The CB-28 ordering period, which opened Jan. 14 and closes March 31, 2019, offers the latest laptop and desktop computers, notebooks, printers, monitors and peripheral products, with model upgrades for many products. CB-28 computers come pre-loaded with Windows 10 Army Gold Master, Trusted Platform Module 2.0 and a minimum of 8 gigabytes of RAM.

Customers are encouraged to use the CHES CB compare tool to select and compare similar products. This tool enables users to compare product specifications, upgrade options, prices and more. Organizations that take advantage of CB are able to achieve significant cost savings, regardless of the product quantities procured. For more information on CB-28, visit the CHES IT e-mart at <https://chess.army.mil/> or contact the CHES Customer Support Center at armychess@mail.mil or 1-888-232-4405.

AHRS welcomes new product leads

BY ARMY HUMAN RESOURCE SYSTEMS PUBLIC AFFAIRS

Army Human Resource Systems (AHRS) recently welcomed two new product leads, Dr. Alberto (Al) Hernandez and Nick Castrinos. Hernandez joined AHRS as product lead for the Commander's Risk Reduction Dashboard portfolio, and Castrinos has taken on the Accessions Information Environment portfolio.

Hernandez, who joined AHRS on Jan. 22, 2019, began his military career as a Marine before commissioning through the Army ROTC program and joining the ranks of the military intelligence branch. He retired from the Army Reserves as a Lt. Col. in 2015 and then started his civil service career as a supervisory IT specialist with the Army Corps of Engineers, where he led the software lifecycle management branch. Hernandez went on to work at the Department of Homeland Security Office of Biometrics Identity Management, the U. S. Department of Agriculture National Finance Center and most recently with the Army Enterprise Systems Integration Program Automated Movement and Identification Solutions. He holds a Doctor of Engineering degree in engineering management from George Washington University, a Master of Science in software engineering from West Virginia University and a bachelor's degree in information technology, and has completed coursework in mathematics and business management. Hernandez is a member of the Acquisition Corps and currently completing his IT Acquisition and Program Management Level III certifications.

Castrinos also joined AHRS on Jan. 22., returning to PEO EIS team after working in industry for nine years. He is a retired Army officer and was previously the deputy program manager at Logistics Information Systems from 2004 to 2009.

Army AcqDemo CAS2Net 2.0 launch

BY: SARAH STEENBERGE, HUMAN RESOURCES DIRECTORATE

The DOD Civilian Acquisition Workforce Personnel Demonstration Project (AcqDemo) is rolling out a new version of the Contribution-based Compensation and Appraisal Systems Software (CAS2Net). CAS2Net version 2.0 will replace the existing CAS2Net 1.0 on Feb. 18, 2019, and all Army Acquisition personnel will be transitioning to this new system.

CAS2Net 2.0 is the online reporting system of the Contribution-based Compensation and Appraisal System (CCAS). The new version will "modernize the information technology application and will offer additional functionalities to enhance the user experience," according to AcqDemo. CAS2Net 2.0 will bring a new look to the system but the context, role and responsibilities of AcqDemo will remain the same. This platform modernization offers enhanced features such as text formatting, a smart search feature, improved organization, easier movement among web pages, auto save and supervisor dashboard features, among many others.

The 2019 rating cycle began its contribution planning in October 2018, using the old CAS2Net 1.0 version. During the migration into CAS2Net 2.0, any approved fiscal year 2019 contribution plans already in CAS2Net 1.0 will be migrated over to CAS2Net 2.0. Database migration to CAS2Net 2.0 took place in January 2019.

The PEO EIS human resources directorate (HRD) began testing the new version on Feb. 1, 2019. HRD will validate the database records to allow employees and supervisors to start using the contribution planning module in version 2.0. The existing CAS2Net 1.0 sunset is scheduled for Feb. 16, 2019, and version 2.0 will be used exclusively after Feb. 18, 2019. HRD will provide information about federal register notice changes, CCAS suspenses and CAS2Net 2.0 training opportunities to the PEO EIS workforce as they become available.

BLACK HISTORY MONTH

FEBRUARY 2019



BLACK MIGRATIONS



Designed by DEOMI - Defense Equal Opportunity Management Institute



Spotlight on Sophia Williams, WESS project management specialist

BY ELLEN SUMMEY, PEO EIS STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION DIRECTORATE



Sophia Williams, WESS project management specialist (Courtesy photo.)

This week, I sat down for a conversation with Sophia Williams of Wideband Enterprise Satellite Systems (WESS), to talk about her career, goals and professional source of inspiration. Williams was recently awarded the Women of Color in Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) Technology Rising Star award, and shared her experiences with me.

ES: Tell me your current role, and how long you've been here at PEO EIS.

SW: *I started as a CORE EIS employee, in October 2014. Currently, I am a project management specialist, and I am responsible for the procurement, acquisition, integration, testing and fielding of multi-million dollar satellite communication systems for the U.S. Army and for DOD.*

ES: What is your favorite thing about your job?

SW: *I really love it when we install a new system at a site, and we see the excitement on the warfighter's face. When we come in and we improve their communication—when they see how the old system was sluggish and didn't have the bandwidth, and the*

new system is faster, much more secure, and provides more capabilities. They're very excited about using the new system(s). They feel so much more secure in their communications, and they know they can do more without the mission being compromised and they can better accomplish their missions.

ES: What is your long-term career goal?

SW: *Ultimately, I would like to be a product manager. I say that because I've had opportunities to work alongside my project officer and product manager, and I participate in budget drills, the POM [program objective memorandum] drills and reviews, and witness all the moving parts of the budgetary process. I really like the planning for the future of the organization. In fact, one of the most interesting weeks of my life was when I was able to shadow Ms. Smith, our PEO, in November 2018. It was incredibly rewarding, as I saw how our leader fought for her organization at every step and at every level. She was rolling up her sleeves to do the work of a leader. Just by watching her that week, it really inspired me to do more as a civilian employee, to do more to help our organization and our people. Never to give up and not to leave any stones unturned!*

ES: What is the biggest lesson you've learned in your career?

SW: *For me, you have to know your craft, be good at your craft, and don't be afraid to make changes when it does not involve human resources and take calculated risk. You will make mistakes; learn from your mistakes. Your people are your most valuable asset. Utilize the strength of your people around you and respect them because they will help take care of you and the mission. They are your foundation and they will help build your career and your successes.*

ES: Thank you so much for your time, Sophia. It's been great talking with you.

Lt. Col. Peter Barclay remembered by his colleagues

BY DEVORAH GOLDBURG, ENTERPRISE SERVICES



Lt. Col. (retired) Peter Barclay is remembered fondly by colleagues at ES (U.S. Army photo.)

On Oct. 6, 2018, Enterprise Services (ES), lost one of its own in a tragic accident that stunned family, colleagues and friends. Lt. Col. (retired) Peter Campbell Barclay, of Raphine, Virginia, lost his life while participating in an equestrian event in Williamstown, Kentucky.

“I admired Peter’s passion which he displayed in everything he did, work or play. His enthusiasm was contagious and I never saw him without a smile on his face. He loved life!” — Dawn Ross

Barclay, a beloved husband and father of two daughters, was only 53 years old when the accident occurred. He was a passionate medieval reenactment enthusiast and a member of the Society for Creative Anachronism. His family owned a farm with horses and he was especially proud of his pear trees and apple trees. Barclay had many hobbies, and his colleagues fondly recall a Christmas when he brought everyone homemade honey from his family farm.

“Peter was always willing to take on new challenges and he cared deeply about the Army and wanted to do everything in his power to support the warfighter. His passion was infectious.” — Sarah Bearden

His untimely passing still looms large at ES, where colleagues remember him as a man who was admired by many. He was devoutly faithful to his church, attending services every weekend, and was respected by neighbors, coworkers and his faith community. He was a great cook, a craftsman woodworker and a continuous learner, all of which he learned from his father. His love for reenacting history was something he cherished, even crafting his own equipment and clothing. A stickler for authenticity, Barclay only using authentic materials in his battlefield reenactments, even in difficult weather conditions and temperatures.

“Along with being a great leader Peter was also an excellent teacher. I will always remember our white board sessions fondly because I learned so much from him. Peter loved to teach and learn about people - I think this is the defining trait of great leaders and teachers.” — Marie Grimmer

Barclay had a distinguished career in the U.S. Army, retiring with the rank of Lt. Col. He was instrumental in Army migration and was by all accounts known as the “founding father” of enterprise email. In 2012, he was awarded Computer Week’s Federal 100 award, recognizing him as a government leader.

“Peter Barclay was a great individual that inspired so many others to be visionary. A visionary with a big idea, but taking small steps to reach the final goal. For Peter, it was not about the big innovation, it was about taking something small and turning into something larger and more meaningful.” — John Pretz

Military service was part of Barclay’s family heritage, the great grandson of Maj. Gen. John A. Barclay, a World War II era theater ordnance officer who was later a driving force in launching EXPLORER I, the first artificial earth satellite to answer the Soviet Union’s SPUTNIK.

He is dearly missed by so many.



Lt. Gen. Paul Ostrowski, principal military deputy to the ASA(ALT), watches a demonstration of an Army Leader Dashboard prototype, Jan. 23, 2019. (U.S. Army photo by Ellen Summey.)



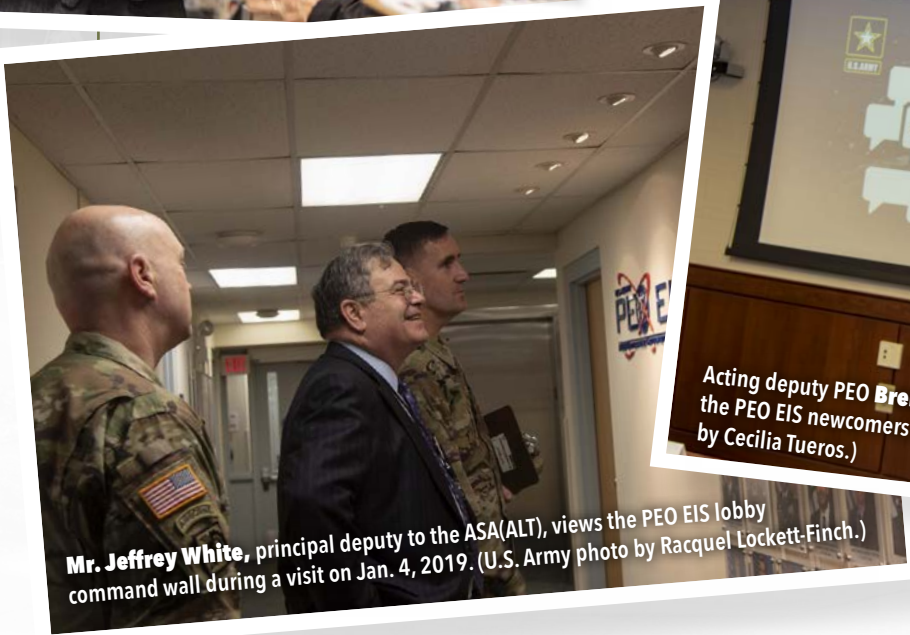
Lt. Col. Rob Wolfe, PEO EIS strategic initiatives group director, gives a briefing about Army Leader Dashboard during the PEO-DASA summit, Jan. 23, 2019. (U.S. Army photo by Ellen Summey.)



Lauren Pavlik, ERP cloud migration operations lead, speaks to **Mr. Jeffrey White**, principal deputy to the ASA(ALT), during a visit to PEO EIS on Jan. 4, 2019. (U.S. Army photo by Racquel Lockett-Finch.)



PEO Cherie A. Smith responds to a question during the PEO-DASA summit, Jan. 23, 2019. (U.S. Army photo by Ellen Summey.)



Mr. Jeffrey White, principal deputy to the ASA(ALT), views the PEO EIS lobby command wall during a visit on Jan. 4, 2019. (U.S. Army photo by Racquel Lockett-Finch.)



Acting deputy PEO **Brendan Burke**, gives advice to attendees during the PEO EIS newcomers orientation, Jan. 17, 2019. (U.S. Army photo by Cecilia Tueros.)

EIS SNAPS