



# the COMMUNICATOR

MARCH 2019

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## Tip of the innovation spear: U.S. Army provides mobile access to Soldier HR and pay records

BY MAJ. LEONARD BAKLARZ, INTEGRATED PERSONNEL AND PAY SYSTEM – ARMY



*The Army G1, Lt. Gen. Thomas Seamands, previews the IPPS-A app while visiting PA-ARNG Soldiers at Ft. Indiantown Gap, PA, Feb. 7, 2019. (U.S. Army photo by Frank Obrien)*

2019. The app was made available to Pennsylvania, Virginia and D.C. Army National Guard Soldiers in February 2019, and will be released to the remaining states and territories according to the 2019 release 2 fielding timeline.

The app provides Soldiers with the flexibility to operate on the move and is secured over a commercial network for Soldiers, commanders and HR professionals. IPPS-A's mobile capabilities provide all Soldiers access to their Army personnel record without requiring a common access card (CAC) for authentication. With the same level of sophistication that secure banking and personal service apps have today, Soldiers can submit help inquiries, request updates to their records, and monitor the status of their personnel actions from the palm of their hand.

Adding to this ease of use, commanders and HR professionals can access their elevated roles by using the app's CAC authentication option, allowing them to

The Army has released a new human resources (HR) mobile application for the Integrated Personnel and Pay System–Army (IPPS-A) that allows Soldiers to access their personnel records using a mobile phone or tablet. IPPS-A is the Army's next generation HR and pay system that revolutionizes the way the Army does business and brings the total force into the digital age.

"Soldiers expect to be part of a 21st century organization with technology comparable to what they see in their app stores every day," said Col. Gregory Johnson, IPPS-A's functional division chief. "This app allows them to accomplish routine tasks that previously required an in-person trip to a G1/S1 shop."

The U.S. Army Training and Doctrine Command (TRADOC) mobile team completed the screening process and approval of the IPPS-A app on Jan. 18,

**"Soldiers expect to be part of a 21st century organization with technology comparable to what they see in their app stores every day."**

**— Col. Gregory Johnson, IPPS-A**

(continued)

review and approve transactions without being tied down to their desks or work stations. Gone are the days of packing work computers and folders of paperwork into your travel or go-home bag.

“The Army is leading the way in modernization and changing how we interact with our Soldiers,” said Lt. Col. Laverne Amara, who is responsible for the development, fielding and sustainment of IPPS-A. The Army is providing a level of transparency and access to Soldier records and personnel actions like never before. Through the app, self-service transactions — including trouble tickets — are automated, paper-free and trackable from initiation to approval.

“By providing one comprehensive record, mobile capabilities, minimized paperwork and reducing in-person appointments, IPPS-A will maximize the potential of the Army’s greatest asset — the Soldier — to enhance Army readiness,” summarized Johnson.

Moving forward, IPPS-A will rely heavily on user feedback to make improvements to the mobile app. Learn more about IPPS-A and its mobile capabilities by visiting the following sites:

IPPS-A website: <http://www.IPPS-A.army.mil>

IPPS-A Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/armyippsa/>

IPPS-A YouTube: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCM1SIVuPyl5NfLcuf3inDRg>

## HAC-D professional staff members visit PEO EIS

BY ELLEN SUMMEY, PEO EIS STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION DIRECTORATE



*Professional staff members of the House Appropriations Committee - Defense visited PEO EIS Feb. 27, 2019. (U.S. Army photo by Racquel Lockett-Finch, PEO EIS)*

On Feb. 27, 2019, Program Executive Officer for Enterprise Information Systems, Ms. Chérie A. Smith, hosted professional staff members (PSMs) from the House Appropriations Committee – Defense (HAC-D) for an overview of PEO EIS programs and accomplishments. During the two-hour visit, Smith spoke to attendees about the mission and relevance of the organization and discussed the use of the Other Transaction Authority (OTA) for rapid prototyping and production of IT solutions. Smith also stressed the value of the OTA for cyber and technology projects, because of the pace at which the environments, threats and requirements may change.

“The use of the OTA has been huge for us,” Smith said. “It has enabled us to do things that wouldn’t have been possible before, in terms of rapidly prototyping and producing new products.” Smith explained that the OTA must be used judiciously, and that it is not right for all acquisition scenarios, but expressed its benefit for the timely development of technology and cyber solutions.

Attendees also heard informative briefings and saw product and prototype demonstrations from Army Leader Dashboard, Integrated Pay and Personnel System – Army and Defensive Cyber Operations. Principals from those programs explained challenges they are working to overcome, and highlighted their successes in developing solutions for the Soldier.

# Brendan Burke honored during SES promotion ceremony

BY ELLEN SUMMEY, PEO EIS STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION DIRECTORATE



Burke (right) receives his Senior Executive Service promotion certificate from Smith (left) during his promotion ceremony at Fort Belvoir, Virginia, on March 1, 2019. (U.S. Army photo by Racquel Lockett-Finch, PEO EIS)

Brendan Burke, acting deputy program executive officer for Enterprise Information Systems, celebrated his selection to the Senior Executive Service (SES) on Friday, March 1, 2019, in a ceremony at Fort Belvoir, Virginia. The event, which was hosted by Program Executive Officer Cherie Smith, was attended by many of Burke's colleagues and friends, as well as his family and senior leaders. In his speech, Burke thanked his family for their support and expressed his appreciation for the mentors who offered him advice and guidance throughout his career.

Burke began his civil service career as a contracting officer with U.S. Army Communications-Electronics Command Life Cycle Management Command. Prior to that, he was a commissioned officer in the U.S. Air Force, serving in various positions within the contracting field. Burke holds a Master of Science degree in national resource strategy from the Dwight D. Eisenhower School for National Security and Resource Management, a Master of Arts

degree in economics from the University of New Hampshire and a Bachelor of Science degree in operations research and economics from the U.S. Air Force Academy.

From October 2016 until his selection as acting Deputy, Burke was the product manager for Installation Information Infrastructure Modernization Program at PEO EIS, where he lead IT infrastructure modernization and lifecycle management of the Army's continental United States Installation Campus Area Networks and Command Centers. Burke also served as the product director for General Fund Enterprise Business System Increment II (GFEBs Inc II) and the project director for Computer Hardware Enterprise Software and Solutions (CHES). At GFEBs Inc II, he was responsible for establishing a team supporting the Army Acquisition Executive's Material Development Decision of a defense business system. At CHES, he was responsible for providing a flexible procurement strategy through which Army users procure IT hardware, software and services via the IT e-mart, the Army's e-commerce site.



Burke (right) unfurls his Senior Executive Service flag as Smith (left) applauds, during his promotion ceremony at Fort Belvoir, Virginia, on March 1, 2019. (U.S. Army photo by Racquel Lockett-Finch, PEO EIS)

## MARCH 2019

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THUR	FRI	SAT
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3	4	5	6	7	8	9
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31						

## UPCOMING EVENTS

- 8 MAR:** I3MP Assumption of Charter, Fort Belvoir, Va.
- 13 MAR:** WGS-10 Launch, Cape Canaveral, Fla.
- 20-22 MAR:** AFCEA Belvoir Industry Days, Gaylord National Harbor, Oxon Hill, Md.
- 26-27 MAR:** AFCEA TechNet, Fort Bragg, N.C.
- 26-28 MAR:** AUSA Global Force Symposium, Huntsville, Ala.

# Financial Kevlar for our tip-of-the-spear warriors

BY STEPHEN JASAK, GENERAL FUND ENTERPRISE BUSINESS SYSTEM - SENSITIVE ACTIVITIES

Sometimes you just can't pay for things with a government purchase card. In highly classified or sensitive activities, even the smallest financial paper trail could reveal critical details and compromise the success of the mission. So, how does the Army pay for those things without giving away vital mission information? The answer is General Fund Enterprise Business System – Sensitive Activities (GFEBS-SA), a type of financial Kevlar for our tip-of-the-spear warriors.

We are developing GFEBS-SA as a SIPRNET instantiation of the GFEBS Increment 1 system with state-of-the-art technology to partition financial transactions by a user's need to know. It will include additional performance and security requirements to protect sensitive activity and national security information. Its ability to provide security for extremely sensitive transactions while supporting the Army's goal of improving financial processes, controls and information through audit readiness, is critical.

To arrive at the recommended approach, the program analyzed and redesigned 6,391 GFEBS Increment 1 end-user roles and incorporated an attribute-based access control tool utilized for organizational partitioning in the Enterprise Resource Planning Central Component. This tool checks and verifies whether the user has appropriate authorizations to access the financial transaction and allows GFEBS-SA to partition "need to know" without adjusting existing audit ready business processes.

At GFEBS-SA, the thing that gets us up in the morning is knowing that what we do will protect national security information, associated individuals and sensitive activity organizations by taking the safeguarding of financial data to the next level. We are building a revolutionary security solution that protects the sensitive activities community.



*GFEBS-SA serves as financial Kevlar, safeguarding information for sensitive activities communities. (U.S. Army graphic by Jennifer Sevier, General Fund Enterprise Business System)*

## Deputy PEO visits ALTESS

BY CHRIS WARFE, ACQUISITION, LOGISTICS & TECHNOLOGY ENTERPRISE SYSTEMS & SERVICES



*Burke, presents an award to ALTESS property manager Josh McGuire during a visit to ALTESS Feb. 5, 2019. (U.S. Army photo)*

Brendan Burke, acting deputy program executive officer for Enterprise Information Systems, was onsite for a quarterly program review and a general overview of the Acquisition, Logistics & Technology Enterprise Systems & Services (ALTESS) organization from Feb. 4 - 5, 2019. He was accompanied by Assistant Program Executive Officer for Networks and Communications, Dan Joyce and Project Director for Enterprise Services, Tom Neff.

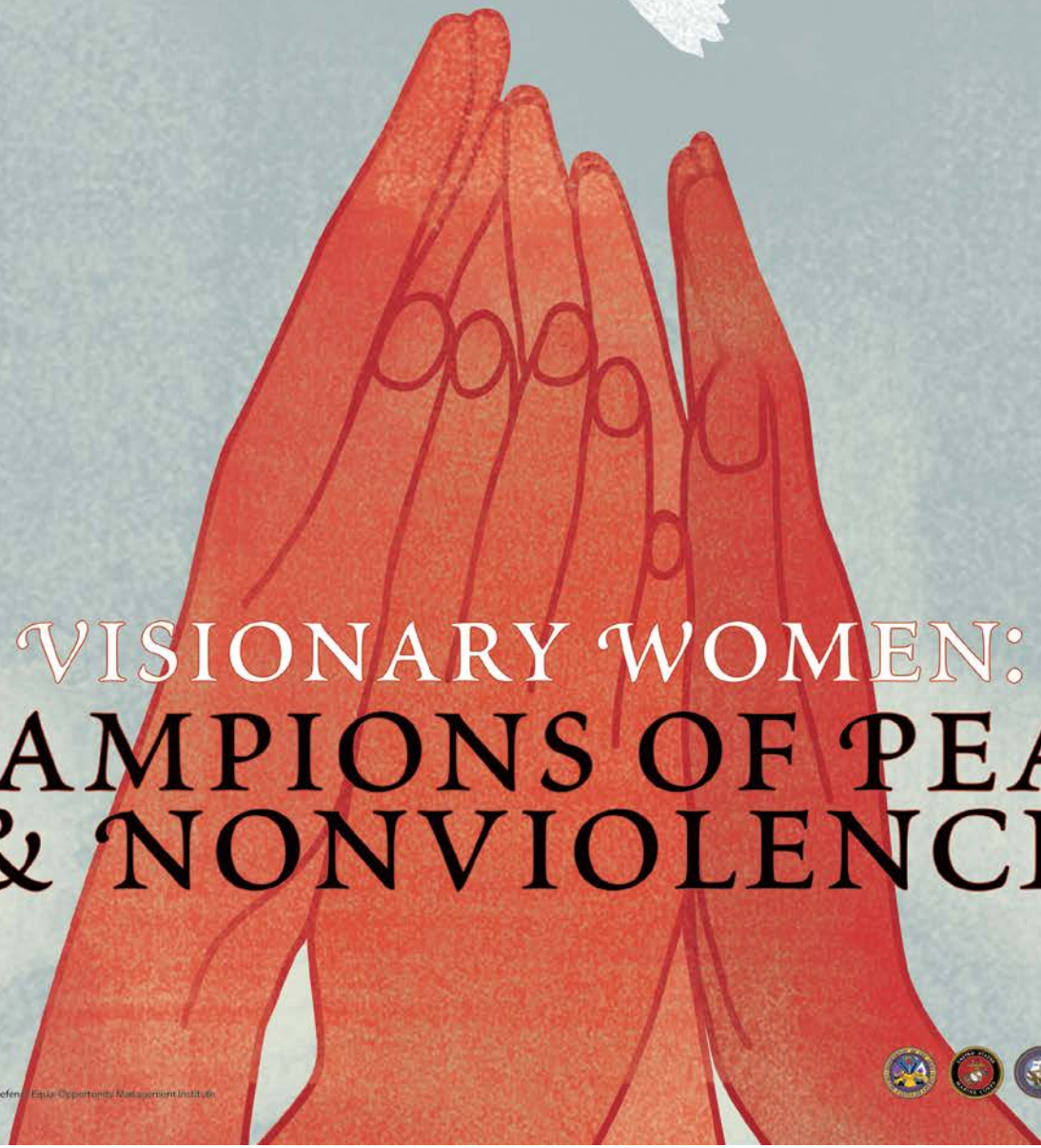
Over the course of his two-day visit, the ALTESS staff gave Burke a variety of briefings and a tour of the ALTESS facility, which highlighted the capabilities of the organization. Burke was also briefed on plans to provide services (application assessment, remediation, modernization and migration) to customers transitioning systems and applications to the commercial cloud.

During his visit, Burke also participated in an all-hands ceremony, where he provided insight on ALTESS' future and presented awards to members of the ALTESS staff. Jordan Clark, a senior technical

engineer, was awarded the Commanders Award for Civilian Service for his role in the Army Leader Dashboard project. Andrew Hendrickson, team lead for Acquisitions and Contracts, received an On-The-Spot Award for his superior end-of-year procurement team management. David Durbin, IT specialist, also received an On-The-Spot Award for his dedication to ALTESS as he led a team of experts to become more proactive and expedite troubleshooting efforts for top level architecture stacks. Josh McGuire, property manager for ALTESS, received an Army Achievement Medal for Civilian Service for his superior Logistics Modernization Program (LMP) decommissioning efforts.

# WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH

MARCH



VISIONARY WOMEN:  
CHAMPIONS OF PEACE  
& NONVIOLENCE



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# DCARNG participates in IPPS-A's D-120 deployment readiness coordination event

BY ROSIE STAHL, INTEGRATED PERSONNEL AND PAY SYSTEM – ARMY



*DCARNG members participated in D120 Deployment Readiness Coordination Event on Feb. 5 and 6. (U.S. Army photo Rosie Stahl, IPPS-A Strategic Communication).*

More than two dozen representatives attended the D-120 deployment readiness coordination event Feb. 5 - 6, 2019 at Fort Belvoir, Virginia, to review and synchronize all critical activities for the successful fielding of Integrated Personnel and Pay System–Army (IPPS-A) release 2 functionality to the D.C. Army National Guard (DCARNG). Led by the IPPS-A training and deployment team, the DCARNG is preparing for pre-deployment schedule activities, the brownout from Standard Installation and Division Personnel Reporting System (SIDPERS) in June and its potential impact on state operations.

Chief Warrant Officer 3 Eric Hilliard is the DCARNG team lead and IPPS-A point-of-contact on the project. He serves as the SIDPERS chief of Enterprise Learning Management (ELM) and installation coordinator for the IPPS-A deployment. "It was great to meet everyone face-to-face as we have been exchanging emails for a long time. This was our opportunity to hone in on the details and make sure we are ready to go live. We are all one team."

IPPS-A also invited ARNG human resource professionals from other states so they can benefit from the lessons learned in Pennsylvania, which is currently live on IPPS-A. This allows them to compare their requirements to benefit implementation and

policy changes. Members from Delaware and New Jersey attended as they are moving towards their D-120 milestone later this year. Together, the Soldiers learned about updates to the IPPS-A implementation plan and participated in working sessions to address any new issues, concerns or requirements that would be helpful to their state deployment.

"I watched a Staff Sgt. in Pennsylvania onboard a Soldier in IPPS-A based on data received from the accession system and they had all the information they needed, in the same place to complete the work, from start to finish," said IPPS-A Program Manager, Col. Darby McNulty, as he presented the overall capabilities of IPPS-A and engaged with the Soldiers to answer questions and receive feedback. "We've designed IPPS-A to better support the mission. It includes customer relationship management software that is not available to us today. For example, it allows you to communicate with your HR professionals and Soldiers much easier by sending e-mails to your team's dot-mil and secondary emails."

Approximately 1,370 D.C. Guardsmen were provisioned for IPPS-A training and received an email to enroll in self-service and complete their distance learning training course. HR professionals are required to complete the 40-hour prerequisite training requirement before instructor facilitate training starts in June. Users with different roles have varying training requirements they must meet before they are provisioned for elevated access.

Readiness includes keeping abreast of news via IPPS-A email announcements and social media platforms, said Vincent Hayes, Training and Deployment Branch chief. "In addition to ensuring you complete all prerequisite training, I encourage everyone to watch the videos available online that show additional processes for how we're going to use the IPPS-A tool. Join us on our Facebook and Instagram for information and cross-talk."

Chief Warrant Officer 2 Ingrid Keller, DCARNG Branch Division chief participated in test events hosted by the Pennsylvania National Guard in September 2018 and said she was very comfortable using the system and walking through the user productivity kits, stating, "I look forward to continuing to learn about the system and seeing the implementation of it going forward in Release 2 and 3."

The next training and deployment event for the DCARNG is at D-90. IPPS-A is scheduled to go live for the DCARNG on June 18.



Outgoing PdM Parent (right) prepares to pass the PEO EIS flag to Mikesh (left). Also pictured is Gabriel Saliba (center). (U.S. Army photo by Jesse Glass, Picatinny Arsenal)

## Project manager for AESIP hosts LMP relinquishment of charter ceremony

BY CHRISTINE IRVING, LOGISTICS MODERNIZATION PROGRAM

On Jan. 28, 2019, Col. Robert Mikesh, project manager for Army Enterprise Systems Integration Program (AESIP), hosted the Logistics Modernization Program (LMP) relinquishment of charter ceremony for Col. Michael N. Parent at Picatinny Arsenal, New Jersey. During the ceremony, Parent pinned on the rank of colonel and passed the PEO EIS flag and LMP product manager (PdM) charter to Mikesh. Deputy PdM Gabriel Saliba will act as PdM for LMP until Center's replacement is named. To signify his role, Saliba received an acting PdM charter from Mikesh.

## P2E holds off-site professional development

BY MAVIA HANSON, POWER PROJECTION ENABLERS

On Feb. 5 and 6, key Power Projection Enablers (P2E) staff and leaders gathered at the Defense Acquisition University (DAU) campus on Fort Belvoir, Virginia, to attend the first off-site professional development workshop since P2E product manager, Lt. Col. Howard Donaldson, took command.

Over the course of the two days, P2E staff and leaders discussed the business practices, cost effectiveness, portfolio management, contract performance, risk management, logistics and operations, acquisition process, and core competencies of P2E's theaters of operation outside the continental United States.

DAU instructors facilitated a professional development discussion with attendees, guiding the conversation throughout the workshop. "They kept the group focused and allowed the attendees to make significant progress" said Tom Dunaway, P2E's Europe theater director.

The facilitators began with introductions, not in the traditional sense of names and titles, but by asking attendees how they wanted others to perceive them. Then, the facilitators opened up the floor for leaders to offer constructive criticism to one another before diving into discussions about assessing P2E's strengths and challenges.

From the first day's discussion, "I learned that many of my peers and I share similar personal challenges and deal with them in much the same way. Having that awareness enables me to consider better their perspective on challenging issues we face daily. I intend to apply that information to gain some synergy with my peers and affect even greater change that benefits the organization and our Soldiers" said Scott Ervin, P2E's Southwest Asia theater director.



Costas shares his mission priorities with P2E staff and leaders. (U.S. Army photo by Sarita Hall, P2E)

(continued)



P2E staff and leaders participated in an off-site professional development meeting, Feb. 5 and 6, 2019. (U.S. Army photo by Sarita Hall, P2E)

From the discussions, Donaldson reassessed his organization and gained a fresh look at how P2E could meet the business demands of today and the challenges of tomorrow.

Donaldson's key leaders acknowledged his effort to 'reset the project management office' and his plans to ensure P2E is leveraging its resources, continuing to innovate the acquisition process to accomplish the warfighter mission, and having the capability to "fight tonight."

On the final day of the workshop, Col. Enrique Costas, the project manager for Defense Communications and Army Transmission Systems, joined Donaldson and his key leaders to discuss mission priorities.

Costas made a point to hone in on the "network path forward" regarding a new modernization approach for the infrastructure of the warfighter. "The current network is complex and fragile and lacks integration and adequate security; it isn't expeditionary or mobile. We want to be

able to leverage the innovation of the commercial industry and streamline the process to acquire proven solutions available today," said Costas.

During the closing session of the two-day workshop, the staff discussed the benefits of the professional development sessions. "We have tangible future plans for executable steps now. We identified our 'quick wins' and now have the momentum to continue being innovative...I look forward to P2E's future growth," said Dunaway.

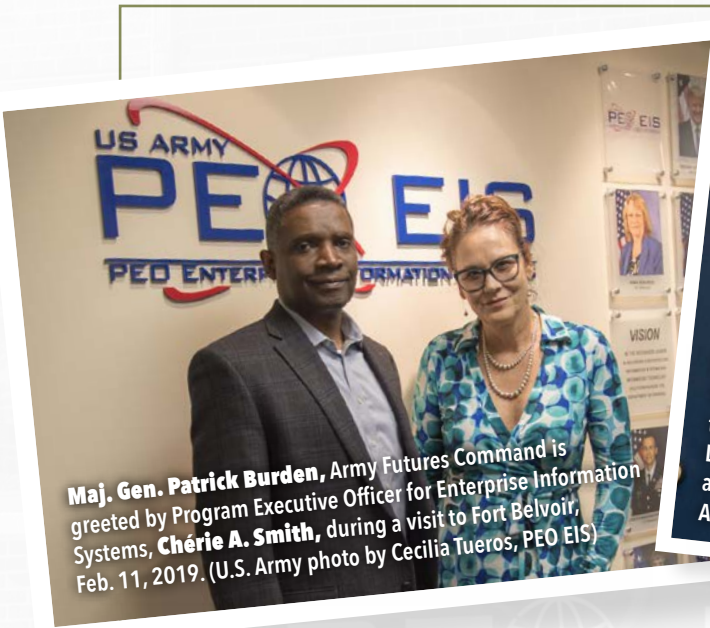
# AFCEA BELVOIR INDUSTRY DAYS

MARCH 21- 22, 2019 · GAYLORD NATIONAL HARBOR  
\*PRE-CONFERENCE SESSION ON MARCH 20, 2019

# TECHNET FORT BRAGG

SYMPOSIUM AND EXPOSITION  
March 26-27, 2019 | Fort Bragg, North Carolina





**Maj. Gen. Patrick Burden**, Army Futures Command is greeted by Program Executive Officer for Enterprise Information Systems, **Cherie A. Smith**, during a visit to Fort Belvoir, Feb. 11, 2019. (U.S. Army photo by Cecilia Tueros, PEO EIS)



**The Honorable Ellen Lord** (left), Under Secretary of Defense for Acquisition and Sustainment, presents the Individual Achievement Award for Life Cycle Logistics to **Billy R. McCain** (right) of Global Combat Support System - Army, at the 2018 Defense Acquisition Workforce Achievement Awards ceremony, held Feb. 5, 2019 at the Pentagon. (Photo courtesy of Office of the Under Secretary of Defense for Acquisition and Sustainment)



PEO EIS staff host a baby shower for **Christy Larkin**, knowledge management team lead, on Feb. 8, 2019. (U.S. Army photo by Cecilia Tueros, PEO EIS)



**Col. Ed Barker**, assistant PEO for Business Mission Area, speaks to PEO EIS staff at a lunch and learn session Feb. 28, 2019 at Fort Belvoir, Va. (U.S. Army photo by Cecilia Tueros, PEO EIS)



Automated Movement and Identification Systems (AMIS) Product Lead, **Mr. Jim Alexander** (left) presents the Commander's Award for Civilian Service to **Mr. Phong Huynh** on Jan. 29, 2019 at his retirement ceremony. Phong retired after 33 years of federal service. (U.S. Army photo by Mike Morrissey, AMIS)



**Brig. Gen. Alfred Abramson III** (left), joint program executive Officer for Armaments and Ammunition, presents a promotion certificate to **Lt. Col. Shayla Parker** during a ceremony on Fort Belvoir, Va, Feb. 20, 2019. (U.S. Army photo by Cecilia Tueros.)

**EIS SNAPS**