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PEO EIS hosts 2nd annual All Saints Ball

BY ELLEN SUMMEY, PEO EIS STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION DIRECTORATE



Program Executive Officer (PEO) Chérie Smith smiles as Deputy PEO Brendan Burke makes remarks during the All Saints Ball, Oct. 4, 2019. (U.S. Army photo by Scott Weaver, PEO EIS Strategic Communication Directorate)

It was an evening of tradition, honor and accolades at the second annual PEO EIS All Saints Ball, Oct. 4, 2019 in Springfield, Virginia. The sold-out crowd of 350 attendees dazzled in formal regalia, enjoying the opportunity to celebrate the accomplishments of their colleagues and friends

The event is a nod to the patron saints of the many Army branches represented in the Acquisition workforce. It serves to recognize military and civilian personnel for their outstanding support, and to publicly honor those who have received recognition from their respective branches. In her welcoming remarks, Program Executive Officer Chérie Smith explained the significance of the ball and invited attendees to enjoy a night of camaraderie and fun.

"This event is about the PEO EIS team – the military members, civilians and contractors who work hard every day to support the Soldier, the centerpiece of everything we do," Smith said. "It's been a very busy year and I am so pleased to celebrate the contributions that our team has made." Smith elaborated on the meaning of the All Saints Ball, explaining the array of backgrounds in the Acquisition workforce. "Each branch of the Army has a special patron saint who represents their specific field," Smith said. "Because Acquisition Corps professionals are often such a mix of military backgrounds, we have a host of saints assigned to our protection."

Highlights of the event included the traditional "grog" ceremony and 16 award presentations to members of the PEO EIS workforce.



Program Executive Officer (PEO) Chérie Smith presents an award to Maj. Mbukoyo Butler during the All Saints Ball, Oct. 4, 2019. (U.S. Army photo by Scott Weaver, PEO EIS Strategic Communication Directorate)



All Saints Ball



(U.S. Army photos by Scott Weaver, PEO EIS Strategic Communication Directorate)

Link to ASB photos: <https://flic.kr/s/aHsmHgX7yG>

PEO discusses initiatives and changes at EIS during AFCEA luncheon

BY KATHERINE MORGAN, PEO EIS STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION DIRECTORATE

Chérie Smith, program executive officer for Enterprise Information Systems (EIS), kicked off the Armed Forces Communications and Electronic Association (AFCEA) Fort Belvoir chapter monthly luncheon series on Sept. 25, 2019 at the Fort Belvoir Officers Club. Smith opened her speech by outlining her priorities for the upcoming year, naming the annual AFCEA Belvoir Industry Day as a priority event for PEO EIS. For the past two years, the industry day has been a signature event for PEO EIS, with heavy participation from across the organization. Smith explained that events like industry day are



Program Executive Officer (PEO), Chérie Smith, delivers the keynote address at the AFCEA Belvoir luncheon, Sept. 25, 2019 at Fort Belvoir, Va. (U.S. Army photo by Scott Weaver, PEO EIS Strategic Communication Directorate)

vital for PEO EIS, as they provide an opportunity for leaders to meet with industry representatives that they do not always get to see. Smith said that meeting with a diverse range of industry benefits organizations like PEO EIS, saying, "I want to get a diversity of ideas, I want an understanding of what the art of the possible is out there." She also discussed the need for honesty between the Army and industry partners, saying, "I want you as informed and capable a partner as I can make you."

Smith went on to discuss major initiatives ongoing at PEO EIS, starting with Enterprise IT as a Service, attesting that the Army is excited about the initiative. She stated that there are certain things the Army does that are its vital core capabilities and make it the best in the world. So, when looking at something "as a service," part of the evaluation is figuring out if it is a core capability. As Smith explained, "running the IT at an installation should not be an Army core capability. We should have our Soldiers training on what they're going to use when they go into the field... If we can get [enterprise IT] as a service, then why wouldn't we want to do that?"

"I want to get a diversity of ideas, I want an understanding of what the art of the possible is out there."

sustainment. Within the next year, Army Enterprise Systems Integration Program will transition into Army Data and Analytic Platforms, which is intended to ensure the Army's enterprise IT systems are appropriately focused on data. Next, General Fund Enterprise Business System (GFEBS) will transition to a program focused on ERP sustainment and will remain under the leadership of GFEBS project manager Col. Donald Burton. Part of the reasoning to make these changes is to appropriately align the program names with the work the programs are doing. The aim is to better guide industry partners to what is going on inside the O-6 portfolio with more intuitive program office names.

Smith ended her remarks by discussing two new O-6 offices that PEO EIS plans to stand up, one focused on data and one focused on enterprise resource planning (ERP)

UPCOMING EVENTS

5 NOV: AFCEA NOVA Small Business Enterprise IT Day, Herndon, VA

11 NOV: Veterans Day

14 NOV: Lunch and Learn, Fort Belvoir, VA

14 NOV: AFCEA Belvoir November Luncheon, Fort Belvoir, VA

28 Nov: Thanksgiving

PEO briefs results of climate survey

BY ELLEN SUMMEY, STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION DIRECTORATE
OCT. 4, 2019 AT WALLACE THEATER

Chérie A. Smith, program executive officer for Enterprise Information Systems, started the second day of the Stand-Down event on Oct. 4 by sharing the results of a recently completed command climate survey. The survey aimed to highlight areas of strength for the organization and pinpoint significant changes or areas for improvement. Last month, all members of the PEO EIS workforce were invited to complete the anonymous survey and had the opportunity to provide open-ended comments for review by senior leaders. In total, more than 900 team members completed the survey, but Smith assured the audience that every voice mattered.

Smith stressed that she appreciated the constructive critique provided by many survey respondents, particularly those that identified trends and gave context to their concerns. Those additional details create a clearer picture of the issues identified and will allow PEO EIS leaders to make strategic changes where needed. Survey questions covered an array of topics, from morale and mission to diversity and sexual harassment. Across the board, Smith emphasized her commitment to staff and contractors alike, highlighting efforts to recognize the contributions of all team members as appropriate.

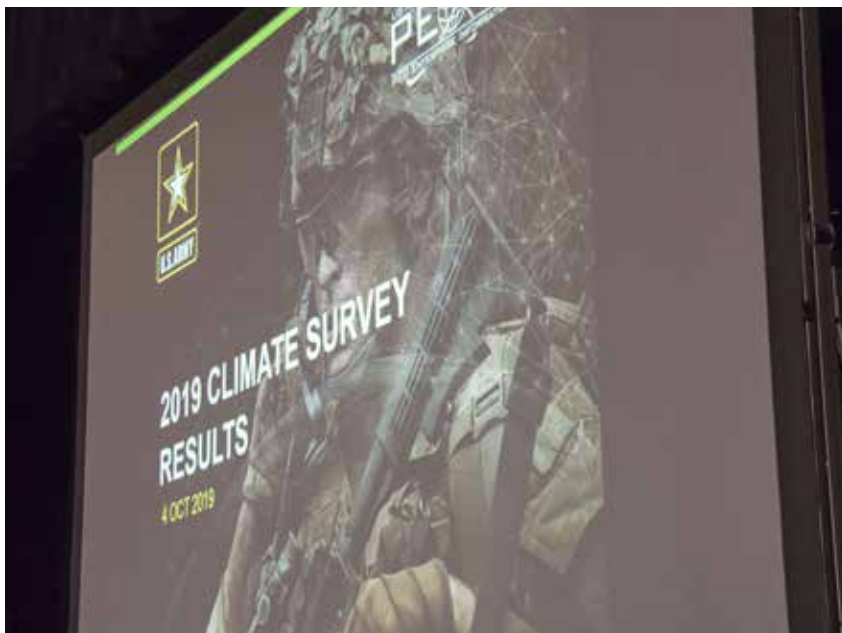


Program Executive Officer (PEO) Chérie Smith and Deputy PEO Brendan Burke listen to questions from the audience during the climate survey briefing Oct. 4, 2019 at Fort Belvoir, Va. (U.S. Army photo by Laura Edwards, PEO EIS Strategic Communication Directorate)

“We are one team, and while we may have to follow different rules, we all work hard to support Soldiers and we are all members of the PEO EIS family.”

“We are one team,” she said, “and while we may have to follow different rules, we all work hard to support Soldiers and we are all members of the PEO EIS family.”

Slides from the briefing are available on sharepoint at: <https://peoeis.kc.army.mil/BriefingLibrary/Oct%202019%20Climate%20Survey.pptx?Web=1>



Town Hall climate survey slide, Oct. 4, 2019. (U.S. Army photo by Laura Edwards PEO EIS Strategic Communication Directorate).

SharePoint Slides

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McConville: National Guard paving way in talent management

BY SEAN KIMMONS, ARMY NEWS SERVICE

In his first trip as the Army's chief of staff, Gen. James McConville touted the work of National Guard Soldiers, adding the Army plans to take advantage of the skillsets many citizen Soldiers possess.

Earlier this year, Pennsylvania National Guard Soldiers first implemented the new Integrated Personnel and Pay System – Army (IPPS-A) that will consolidate three separate systems currently run by each Army component.

IPPS-A allows leaders to better manage talent and assign jobs that match Army requirements to Soldier knowledge, skills and behaviors. It even logs a Soldier's preferences, such as if he or she has a desire to stay in one location longer.



Gen. James McConville, chief of staff of the Army, speaks during the annual conference for the National Guard Association of the United States in Denver Aug. 31, 2019. McConville touted the work of National Guard Soldiers and said the Army plans to take advantage of the skillsets many citizen Soldiers possess. (U.S. Army photo by Sean Kimmons, Army News Service)

“I think [IPPS-A is] going to fundamentally change the way we do business.”

The Army has also rolled out a web-based, talent management portal known as Assignment Interactive Module version 2, or AIM 2.0, that active duty officers have started using to self-identify their own knowledge, skills, behaviors and preferences. Simultaneously, commands list open positions requiring certain skills. Through the process, officers and commands have a greater chance to find a match.

“We have very linear, rigid career tracks,” McConville said Saturday while at the annual conference for the National Guard Association of the United States. “I don’t see that as the future.”

Both IPPS-A and AIM 2.0 are tools the Army is using as it implements the Army Talent Alignment Process (ATAP). ATAP is a decentralized, regulated, market-style hiring system that aligns officers with jobs based on preferences. “I don’t think the young men and women that are coming into the Army want to be managed as interchangeable parts,” he said. “They want to be managed individually for their talents.”

McConville said the feedback from Guard Soldiers on the initial version of IPPS-A has been overwhelmingly positive and future system updates will improve its performance. “Once we get the whole system up and running, the real gains will be made from there,” he said. “I think it’s going to fundamentally change the way we do business.”

IPPS-A can now be found in Guard units in nine states, he said, with the entire Guard fielding the system over the next year before it heads to Reserve and active-duty units. “I think it’s the best source of talent to do that,” McConville said of why the National Guard was chosen to receive the system first. “When you take a look at our reserve forces... it’s amazing at the amount of talent that we have.”



Lt. Col. Cedric Sherard celebrates his promotion during a ceremony hosted by **Maj. Gen. Brian Cummings** on Sept. 20, 2019 at Fort Belvoir, Va. (U.S. Army photo by Scott Weaver, PEO EIS Strategic Communication Directorate)



Deputy Project Manager for General Fund Enterprise Business System, **Ralph Ocasio**, speaks during his retirement ceremony, Sept. 26, 2019 at Fort Belvoir, Va. (U.S. Army photo by Scott Weaver, PEO EIS Strategic Communication Directorate)



Leaders discuss opportunities to collaboration during the PEO EIS Cross Service Summit, Oct. 17, 2019 at Fort Belvoir, Va. (U.S. Army photo by Scott Weaver, PEO EIS Strategic Communication Directorate)



Lt. Col. Cedric Sherard smiles as his family places new rank insignia on his uniform during his promotion ceremony on Sept. 20, 2019 at Fort Belvoir, Va. (U.S. Army photo by Scott Weaver, PEO EIS Strategic Communication Directorate)



Attendees of the AFCEA Belvoir luncheon listen to the keynote address by Program Executive Officer Chérie Smith on Sept. 25, 2019 at Fort Belvoir, Va. (U.S. Army photo by Scott Weaver, PEO EIS Strategic Communication Directorate)



Program Executive Officer Chérie Smith opens the Cross Service Summit on Oct. 17, 2019 at Fort Belvoir, Va. (U.S. Army photo by Scott Weaver, PEO EIS Strategic Communication Directorate)



Program Executive Officer Chérie Smith presents Deputy Project Manager for General Fund Enterprise Business System, **Ralph Ocasio**, with his retirement certificate on Sept. 26, 2019 at a ceremony on Fort Belvoir, Va. (U.S. Army photo by Scott Weaver, PEO EIS Strategic Communication Directorate)