the COMMUNICATOR

PEO EIS team engages at AFCEA TechNet conference

BY ELLEN SUMMEY, PEO EIS STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION DIRECTORATE

Deputy Program Executive Officer for EIS, Brendan Burke, makes his keynote address at the AFCEA TechNet Augusta conference, Aug. 22, 2019. (U.S. Army photo by Tara Clements, PEO EIS Strategic Communication Directorate)

Deputy Program Executive Officer for Enterprise Information Systems (EIS), Brendan Burke, delivered a keynote address to attendees of the AFCEA TechNet conference in Augusta, Georgia on Aug. 22, 2019. The event is a signature engagement for the PEO EIS networks, cyber and services mission area and a prime opportunity for stakeholder engagement.

"The AFCEA TechNet Augusta conference is a tradition that I am always eager to support," Burke said. "This year I was honored to represent our Army team as part of a series of consecutive program executive officer presentations that also featured Maj. Gen. David Bassett, PEO Command Control Communications-Tactical (C3T); Brig. Gen. Anthony Potts, PEO Soldier; and Brig. Gen. Robert Collins, PEO Intelligence, Electronic Warfare and Sensors."

During his keynote, Burke also spoke about upcoming changes at PEO EIS, including the transition of the Combat Service Support Automated Information System Interface (CAISI) and the Combat Service Support Very Small Aperture Terminal (CSS VSAT) to PEO C3T. "As part of an overarching Army transition to sustainment plan, CAISI VSAT will be subsumed by PEO C3T effective Oct. 1," Burke said. "Both were developed to be user owned and operated in support of sustainment information systems."

In addition, PEO EIS will gain the Military Technical Solutions (MilTech) program office from PEO C3T. MilTech provides innovative collaboration and information sharing information technology services and products that increase efficiency and operational performance. "We are excited to partner with our sister PEOs in the visionary transition to sustainment plan, which better aligns Army mission portfolios for increased efficiency and cost savings," Burke said.

In total, PEO EIS sent a team of 11 to the conference, representing the headquarters element, Enterprise Services, Defensive Cyber Operations (DCO) and Army Training Information System. Joe Kobsar, director of Applied Cyber Technologies for DCO and Lt. Col. Michael Lind, product manager for Cyber Platforms and Systems, hosted a breakout session on the future of the DCO capability requirements and the use of a hybrid development security operations (commonly referred to as "DevSecOps") environment to continuously integrate and develop the DCO portfolio of tools.

"We spoke about our Cyber Operations Broad Responsive Agreement, Other Transaction Authority (OTA) agreements and traditional Federal Acquisition Regulation contracting opportunities at DCO, which people really appreciated," Kobsar said. "Many of our business development stakeholders are not as familiar with the OTA, so it's important for us to articulate the value and the opportunities available to our industry partners as they adapt and participate in DCO's non-traditional capability venues."

Representing ES, the Computer Hardware, Enterprise Software and Solutions (CHESS) product office staffed a booth on the exhibit floor, providing information to Army stakeholders and industry partners. The next AFCEA TechNet Augusta conference will be held Aug. 20–22, 2020.

CHESS team members (from left to right) Ylander Jones, Stacy Watson and Tricia Shelley enjoyed speaking with Deputy Chief Information Officer/G-6, Greg Garcia at the AFCEA TechNet Augusta conference, Aug. 22, 2019. (U.S. Army photo courtesy of Tricia Shelley, CHESS)

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UPCOMING EVENTS

25 SEPT: AFCEA Belvoir Luncheon, Fort Belvoir, VA

26 SEPT: Ralph Ocasio Retirement Ceremony, Fort Belvoir, VA

4 OCT: Stand Down / Town Hall, Fort Belvoir

4 OCT: All Saints Ball, Springfield, VA

10 OCT: Lunch & Learn, Fort Belvoir, VA

14–16 OCT: AUSA Annual Meeting, Washington, D.C.

Section 809 panel members speak at lunch and learn

BY ASHLEY TOLBERT, PEO EIS STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION DIRECTORATE

Former Section 809 Panel commissioner and Principal Military Deputy, Assistant Secretary of the Army (Acquisition, Logistics and Technology), retired Lt. Gen. Ross Thompson speaks about the dynamic marketplace framework during the Lunch and Learn session at PEO EIS headquarters, Aug. 29, 2019. (U.S. Army photo by Scott Weaver, PEO EIS Strategic Communication Directorate)

The Section 809 Panel concluded its mission in July 2019, providing recommendations to help DOD streamline and codify its acquisition regulations. Three of the panel's esteemed members shared their experiences and insights at a PEO EIS Lunch and Learn session, Aug. 29, 2019 at Fort Belvoir, Virginia. Leading the event were former panel commissioner and Principal Military Deputy, Assistant Secretary of the Army (Acquisition, Logistics and Technology), retired Lt. Gen. Ross Thompson, along with former professional staff members Larry Asch and Nick Tsiopanas. Program Executive Officer Chérie Smith and Deputy Program Executive Officer Brendan Burke also attended the session and participated in the discussion.

Thompson kicked off the event and elaborated his role and additional background about the panel. "I was appointed as the commissioner on the Section 809 Panel in August 2016, which was chartered by Congress to streamline defense acquisition and advise senior government and industry leaders on strategy, program management, technology, contracting, budgets, process improvement and workforce development," he said. "The Section 809 Panel has published four reports that contain a total of 98 recommendations. These concepts include both evolutionary and revolutionary recommendations to better leverage innovation in the dynamic marketplace and get capabilities to warfighters faster." The panel's work is summarized in its roadmap, with specifics of all the recommendations.

> **"[. . .] professionals often choose to work as independent contractors in the gig economy, finding work through online talent marketplaces"**

During the presentation, Tsiopanas discussed methods to increase the use of existing commercial buying authorities. "Despite the original intent and numerous revisions to statutes and regulations, selecting sources for commercial products and services have continued to take too long and involve unnecessarily complex procedures," he said. "So we highlighted a couple of

FAR [Federal Acquisition Regulation] regulations to help circumvent and expedite these issues by using the FAR Part 12 [commercial items], FAR Part 13 [simplified acquisition threshold] and FAR Subpart 13.5 [simplified procedures for certain commercial items]. We also recommended new methods to increase the speed and benefits for services by leveraging FAR 13.5, which can be used for services."

Wrapping up the Lunch and Learn session, Asch gave an overview of strategies to streamline service contract approval process, optimize acquisition of consumption-based solutions, and ways to create direct contracts with independent consultants. "Highly qualified independent consultants do not always want to become full-time employees or navigate the complexities of becoming a government contractor or subcontractor. These professionals often choose to work as independent contractors in the gig economy, finding work through online talent marketplaces," he explained.

At the conclusion of the event, Smith expressed her gratitude and gave each presenter a command coin to thank them for their time and efforts. The Lunch and Learn series is part of the PEO's growth and development line of effort, and organizers invite internal and external speakers to discuss a broad variety of topics.

GCSS-Army hosts change of charter and retirement

BY JIM MCDONOUGH, GLOBAL COMBAT SUPPORT SYSTEM - ARMY

On Aug. 2, 2019, Col. R.J. Mikesh, the project manager for Army Enterprise Systems Integration Program, hosted a change of charter ceremony for Global Combat Support System - Army (GCSS-Army) at Wylie Hall on Fort Lee, Virginia. Lt. Col. Preston J. Hayward, after serving three years as the product manager (PdM), turned over responsibility for the $4 billion GCSS-Army program to Lt. Col. William A. Reker.

Reker, a member of the Army Acquisition Corps, most recently served as deputy for the Command, Power and Integration directorate at the Command, Control, Computers, Communications, Cyber, Intelligence, Surveillance and Reconnaissance (C5ISR) Center at Aberdeen Proving Ground, Maryland. He looks forward to serving the Army in acquisition and logistics as the new PdM of GCSS-Army.

During the change of charter ceremony, Mikesh reviewed the GCSS-Army team's accomplishments under Hayward's leadership. Highlights included completing the largest enterprise resource planning implementation in the Army's history; planning and starting the execution of the transition of sustainment of the GCSS-Army solution; moving the product management office's facility from an off-post, leased building to a permanent headquarters at Fort Lee; and establishing a successful community outreach program with local schools.

Following the change of charter ceremony, Mikesh hosted Hayward's retirement. In his introductory comments, Mikesh highlighted the outgoing PdM's accomplishments, spanning 30 years in the Army. Recognizing his achievements, Hayward was presented with the Ancient Order of Saint Christopher Award, the Legion of Merit Award, the Presidential Certificate of Appreciation, and the certificate of retirement. In Hayward's farewell and acceptance address, he acknowledged that he began and ended his career at Fort Lee, and expressed his gratitude for Fort Lee's imprint on his work ethic.

Lt. Col. Preston Hayward, Col. R.J. Mikesh and Lt. Col. William Reker stand during the GCSS-Army Change of Charter ceremony Aug. 2, 2019. (U.S. Army photo by Sherrell Satterthwaite, GCSS-Army)

Col. R.J. Mikesh presents the GCSS-Army charter to the incoming PdM Lt. Col. William Reker, Aug. 2, 2019. Also pictured is Ken Ellison, who assisted. (U.S. Army photo by Sherrell Satterthwaite, GCSS-Army)

Following the ceremonies, Reker and his family hosted a reception with refreshments for attendees. Congratulations to Hayward on his retirement, and Reker on his new assignment!

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HR experts learn fundamentals of finance operations

BY STAFF SGT. SCOTT EVANS, 4TH INFANTRY DIVISION

In the coming months, the Integrated Personnel and Pay System – Army (IPPS-A), will come into full effect, requiring Army human resource specialists to assume military pay duties which have been handled previously by financial management specialists.

In preparation for this coming change, the 4th Infantry Division personnel section has developed a pilot program to train human resource specialists, both Soldiers and civilians, from various installations throughout the Colorado Springs, Colorado, area.

The Fort Carson MilPay Fundamentals Course, which was taught by military pay instructors assigned to Fort Knox, Kentucky, who are currently on duty at the Defense Finance and Accounting Service (DFAS) in Indianapolis, Indiana, took place at the Military Training Complex (MTC) at Fort Carson, Colorado, Aug. 12–15, 2019.

"The IPPS-A program is being designed to modernize the HR system by bringing these services into the modern world," said Maj. Matthew K. McDaniel, the chief of the 4th Infantry Division Human Resources Operations Center (HROC). "Many of the systems currently in use have been around for a long time."

The four-day course helped to ensure HR specialists had a thorough understanding of their future responsibilities in order for them to gain knowledge and confidence in the system's processes.

"We have to learn about coding, financial pay, audits and anything that has to do with finance; it's now going to have to be done within the [division personnel office]," said Sgt. DeJuan A. Means, a human resources Soldier for the 4th Infantry Division. "We are looking to take these students to be able to take that knowledge, process it so that when they leave they will be able to train people within their units."

With many attendees stationed outside of Fort Carson, a lot of forward planning had to be conducted by the Fort Carson HROC to make it effective for everyone involved.

"As part of the planning process for setting up this class, we had to consider that there are students from elements that are not part of Fort Carson computer network, so we had to make sure they had access to the tools they would use in an operational environment," McDaniel said. Though this was the first course conducted on the subject, the course length did allow the instructors to cover a lot of the training that will make the students effective in their career fields in the future, through both practical exercises and testing.

"Many of the systems currently in use have been around for a long time."

"There is a lot of information and I believe that this is the foundation for HR professionals, when it comes to the military pay portion," said Sgt. 1st Class Radia A. Rogers, military pay instructor for Army Human Resource Command at Fort Knox. "Just giving them the basics on what needs to happen when a Soldier comes in with a pay issue and how to resolve it, not just going off of knowledge, but how to conduct research and giving them the tools to know how to conduct that research."

The HROC is planning to conduct these classes frequently, so more HR personnel from active Army, Reserve and National Guard units will have access to effective training which they can bring back to their units at the battalion and company level.

"I spoke with the instructor team and asked if they could come again in February," Means said. "They say that timeframe works well for them since it's sort of the beginning of their fiscal year, so we just need to coordinate it and make it happen."

ALTESS celebrates 60 years of technology support and services

BY CHRISTOPHER WARFE, ACQUISITION LOGISTICS AND TECHNOLOGY ENTERPRISE SYSTEMS AND SERVICES

Acquisition Logistics and Technology Enterprise Systems and Services (ALTESS) celebrated its 60th birthday in Radford, Virginia, on Jun. 14, 2019, a date which coincided with the Army's 243rd birthday. ALTESS has a rich history and first opened its doors on May 18, 1959, as the Ordnance Information Data Agency, providing IT services to the Army.

During its birthday celebration, ALTESS welcomed current and former employees, family members and more than 40 local retirees whose experience spans the last six decades. Gary Winkler, former program executive officer for Enterprise Information Systems, was on hand to help cut the birthday cake.

One particular retiree, who worked in the ALTESS bunker from 1960 until 1990, reminisced about working with a water-cooled universal automatic computer weighing 38,500 pounds. In addition, the retiree described working with a report program generator where some of the initial coding of subroutines was built using code that predated Common Business Oriented Language. These original Army IT pioneers provided highly sensitive battle damage assessments during the height of the Cold War.

Jim Graham, a former ALTESS employee, speaks about his time in the organization, during an anniversary ceremony held June 14, 2019 in Radford, Virginia. Also pictured are ALTESS Product Director Tim Hale (center) and former PEO Gary Winkler (right). (U.S. Army photo courtesy of ALTESS)

Two historical photos from 1959 show construction and facilities on Radford Army Ammunition Plant, Virginia. (U.S. Army photos courtesy of Radford Army Ammunition Plant)

As a way of honoring former employees, current ALTESS Product Director Timothy Hale recognized each attendee by name, with their positions and time worked in the organization. Many stories were shared, memories were relived and friends were reunited.

"This day not only showed appreciation to the past and present employees of ALTESS, it also exemplified the family culture of this long-serving Army IT service organization," said Hale. "It further demonstrated how ALTESS has kept pace and evolved with the state-of-the-art equipment over the last half century, now serving over 80 customers, more than 100 major systems and millions of users.
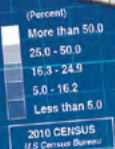
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National Hispanic Heritage Month

(Percent)
More than 50.0
25.0 - 50.0
16.3 - 24.9
5.0 - 16.2
Less than 5.0
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U.S Census Bureau

Service

Dedication

Honor

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AESIP names new AMIS product lead

BY DALE WERTH, ARMY ENTERPRISE SYSTEMS INTEGRATION PROGRAM

Col. R.J. Mikesh, project manager for the Army Enterprise Systems Integration Program (AESIP), hosted an assumption of charter ceremony on Aug. 16, 2019, at Fort Belvoir, Virginia, during which Keith Baylor received the charter for product lead (PL), Automated Movement and Identification Solutions (AMIS). Baylor previously served as the deputy project director of Enterprise Services and as the acting product director for its subordinate program, Enterprise Computing, from June 2015 to July 2019.

Brendan Burke, deputy program executive officer for Enterprise Information Systems (EIS), attended the charter presentation, along with members of the AMIS and PEO EIS communities. Guests of honor included Baylor's wife, Gerlean Baylor, and two of their three children, Kylea and Kaden. Their oldest son, Pfc. Kaleb Baylor, was not able to attend in person as he is currently serving on active duty in Kuwait. To include his son Kaleb and others, Baylor was excited to live stream the ceremony for online.

Baylor brings a wealth of military and government experience, having served in numerous acquisition-related assignments since 2004. As Baylor's previous branch commander, Mikesh remarked that he was very pleased with his selection and was looking forward to working with him again. Mikesh also noted that he had been impressed with his sense of judgment and leadership initiative. "AMIS is a very complex and evolving program," Mikesh said, "and so the PL for this program will need to be someone who brings some tenacity in addressing all the details, and Keith brings all of that to this role. I'm pleased to welcome him to the AESIP leadership team."

During his remarks, Baylor individually acknowledged each of his family members, noting just how important they are to him and to his overall success to date. "They keep me in line, and keep me grounded as to what's important," Baylor said. He characterized himself as a "leader

Col. R.J. Mikesh, left, and Keith Baylor, right, at the AMIS assumption of charter ceremony. (U.S. Army photo by Scott Weaver, PEO EIS Strategic Communication Directorate)

who serves" and stated his biggest challenge will be in helping AMIS evolve as a program of record during sustainment. He concluded by saying, "we need to ensure that the warfighter has the best configurations of equipment, the latest software updates and the best in-transit technology to continuously and seamlessly support all of their efforts."

Col. R.J. Mikesh, center, and Keith Baylor, right, in Assumption of Charter Ceremony, August 12, 2019. (U.S. Army photo by Scott Weaver, PEO EIS)

Chérie Smith & Brendan Burke, center, with newcomers group Sept. 5, 2019. (U.S. Army photo by Scott Weaver, PEO EIS)

Brendan Burke speaks at the Newcomers meeting, Sept. 5, 2019. (U.S. Army photo by Scott Weaver, PEO EIS)

Keith Baylor speaks at the AMIS Assumption of Charter Ceremony, Aug. 12, 2019. (U.S. Army photo by Scott Weaver, PEO EIS)

EIS SNAPS

Larry Asch addresses the Lunch & Learn audience, Aug. 29, 2019. (U.S. Army photo by Scott Weaver, PEO EIS)

Brendan Burke speaks with a vendor at TechNet in Augusta, GA, Sept. 5, 2019. (U.S. Army photo by Tara Clements, PEO EIS)

Brendan Burke's birthday celebration, Aug. 9, 2019. (U.S. Army photos by Scott Weaver, PEO EIS)

Chérie Smith, right, and Lunch & Learn speaker, Nick Tsiopanas, left, Aug. 29, 2019. (U.S. Army photo by Scott Weaver, PEO EIS)