When connectivity is unavailable, HALO fills a gap

BY PAUL CLARK, MEDICAL COMMUNICATIONS FOR COMBAT CASUALTY CARE

Army physician assistant Maj. Melissa Hodges and Spc. Jesse Medina provide feedback to Maj. Gen. Brian Lein during MC4 limited user tests of HALO at Camp Bullis, Texas, in 2017. (U.S. Army photo courtesy of MC4)

The Medical Communications for Combat Casualty Care (MC4) program management office has developed a software application called Health Assessment Lite Operations (HALO), which is designed to allow medical providers to electronically document critical health information on injured or sick patients, even when internet connectivity is unavailable.

After treating an injured Soldier at the point of injury, a medic's primary job is to get the Soldier and the medical treatment data to the next level of care. That is often a role 1 battalion aid station, but can also be the closest role 2 medical treatment facility or role 3 hospital.

During a period of no connectivity, the HALO application allows medical providers to continue to digitally capture the Soldier's medical treatment data and when network communications return, the data entered in HALO will be automatically transmitted to the military's electronic health record system, Armed Forces Health Longitudinal Technology Application – Theater (AHLTA-T), which in turn links to the Theater Medical Data Store and the Clinical Data Repository.

Combined, these repositories make-up the electronic medical system which stores data and becomes part of the patient's EHR. This health record follows the Soldier throughout his/her career and beyond, even into the Veteran's Administration system.

If medical providers are unable to electronically capture a Soldiers' treatment data, they must revert to paper in order to record the vital health information. This often results in the loss of data, which in turn poses a potential risk to the patient's safety and neglects the transfer of that medical encounter to the Soldier's lifelong EHR.

One of the reasons HALO was created was to fill this critical gap. HALO is a Windows-based application that provides the user with an electronic version of the SF 600 form, the standard form used in the military to chronologically record a Soldier's medical care such as symptoms, diagnosis and treatment.

"HALO is a simple, electronic, medical documentation application intended for use when connectivity is down," explained

Jay Patnaude, a senior engineer with MC4. "With the ability to continue recording health data in HALO, medical providers can focus more of their time on saving lives."

The MC4 engineering team wanted to ensure medical personnel could perform the same health data documentation functions in HALO that they would in AHLTA-T, albeit a pared down version. Engineers eliminated unnecessary functions and provided the user with a simple documentation application that includes capabilities like printing sick call slips, laboratory reports and pharmacy prescriptions.

Army programming pioneer visits ALTESS

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

Jim Graham (left); George Phelps, service operations team (center) and Dave Duncan, service operations chief (right) recently met to discuss the history of ALTESS. (U.S. Army photo by Chris Warfe, ALTESS)

As Acquisition, Logistics & Technology Enterprise Systems & Services (ALTESS) celebrates 60 continuous years as an Army information technology service provider, leaders reached out to a local retiree for some insight on what the organization was like in its infancy. Jim Graham was hired in 1960 as an Army programming and systems analyst for the Ordinance Information Data Agency (OIDA) and stayed with the organization for 30 years.

The mission of the original organization was to back up the Mount Weather Emergency Operations Center located in the Blue Ridge Mountains, providing bomb damage assessment models by using weather communications, air-density and infrastructure models that Graham and his team programmed and built. Some programs that were supported and built in the early days were legacy systems of the same supported customers today. Graham worked with many recent retirees and a few current employees as well, including George Phelps of the Service Operations Team.

Graham's team was tasked with programming the original computer at ALTESS, called the UNIVAC 1103. It was a water-cooled, 38,500 pound computer. "It only had 4,000 words of storage," Graham said. The UNIVAC 1103 used a key punch method to encode programs stored on magnetic tapes, which were physically transported to other sites for assessments and to compile code into machine language. This process often took three to four days for feedback.

Graham played an important part in the evolution of programming. His team ushered in advanced technologies in support of the Army's mission, including the Report Program Generator (RPG), which was developed by IBM and was a pre-cursor to Common Business-Oriented Language (COBOL), initially created in 1959 as a report-writing tool to replicate punch card processing.

One of Graham's last major efforts at ALTESS was travelling to the program executive offices (PEOs) of major weapon systems with a secure telephone known as "STU-III" and setting up the connection to a personal computer with a removable hard drive. It was the first online access and communication with the PEOs.

After retiring from ALTESS, Graham went to work for Radford University College where he ran the IT administrative systems for another 20 years. He still drives a bus part time in Radford, Virginia, and says "I keep busy so my mind stays fresh."

Graham's team was tasked with programming the original computer at ALTESS, called the UNIVAC 1103. It was a water-cooled, 38,500 pound computer.

Graham is pleased and proud that ALTESS remains the Army's premier IT services organization, and he shared with current employees how the ALTESS IT mission has evolved over the last 60 years. He said that ALTESS has remained a tight-knit, family-oriented, professional organization that is poised to provide services to the Army for the foreseeable future.

Smith speaks about first year as Program Executive Officer

BY ELLEN SUMMEY, PEO EIS STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION DIRECTORATE

Program Executive Officer for Enterprise Information Systems, Chérie A. Smith. (U.S. Army photo by Racquel Lockett-Finch, PEO EIS)

April marks the start of a new year for Program Executive Officer (PEO) Chérie A. Smith. She officially assumed the role of PEO on April 1, 2018, and now embarks on her second year in the position. Having started with a bold new agenda for the organization, Smith recently sat down with me to discuss her thoughts about the last 12 months and her plans for the future.

ES: Looking back on your first year as PEO, what are you most proud of?

CS: Our people. When I look at the people we have in leadership positions, and all the change that has taken place in the last year, it's clear that we have some amazing leaders. The number and quality of leaders we've been able to get in a business systems PEO, I believe is a reflection of the value that the Army sees in the work that we do.

I'm also really proud of the partnerships that we've forged with Gen. Perna at Army Materiel Command, and Communications-Electronics Command and the Shared Services Center, the relationship with the Office of Business Transformation and with Dr. David Markowitz and his role as the Army chief of data analytics. Those partnerships, I believe, will leverage us into the future for years to come, because they are investing in the way forward and they're helping us lay out that plan. I really think that's critical for us to be successful. We need to have advocates who will speak on our behalf and push for what we're doing, and they have to understand the value of what we provide. I think we've done a good job of that this year.

ES: In your day-to-day work and as you plan for the future, what motivates you?

CS: What motivates me every day, as corny as it sounds, is that I truly want a better PEO EIS. I grew up here. It's my home. That's the way I see it – it's my work home. I've got 14 years total at PEO EIS. I think all the PEOs want to leave their organizations a better place, but what I had that I don't think any of the other PEOs had, I think I had the most years in the organization before I assumed command.

ES: So, it's personal for you?

CS: It's not just personal, I think I knew it better. I mean, you don't spend 14 years in an organization and not learn what makes it tick. It has grown, but it's fundamentally the same. Over those 14 years, I would look at things and think about how they might be better or more functional. I'm not saying I knew this job, because I was surprised by how complex it is, but I did know the organization. I had that depth that I could bring.

ES: Besides the complexity, what else has been most surprising in this first year?

CS: I was most surprised by the amount of work that each program office is carrying. I think our PMs carry more work at the O-6 level than any other PM, and as much or more than any other program office at any PEO anywhere. There's a lot going on in our world.

ES: What has been your biggest challenge this year?

CS: Fundamentals. For some reason, maybe because we're so busy, maybe because there's so much work and there's always that effort to get to the finish line, we're missing some of the fundamentals. The amount of lessons we're re-learning was very surprising to me. Chasing so fast to get things done, we are missing the fundamental work of talking to each other and understanding what's going on. Sometimes it's a matter of being able to say, "hey, this is my baseline," and speaking truth to power with senior leaders about what you can take on and what you can't.

It's almost all around baseline management, cost management and market research. Nobody knows this stuff better than we do. We've been doing it for years, so why not ask others how they accomplished something. That's been a key for Lt. Col. Rob Wolfe with ALD, I think. Lt. Col. Wolfe went and talked to other PMs. "What did you do? What worked? What didn't work?" That's what made ALD successful, that they took lessons learned from other programs, and brought that in, and they tried to

(continued)

leverage from there going forward.

ES: We've talked about challenges and successes, but what is your favorite thing about your job?

CS: Most every day, I'm excited to come to work, because I know it's going to be interesting. It's the fulfillment of a dream, really and I still feel that way a year later. I still feel like it's the fulfilment of my life ambition, my work ambition, doing this job. Now, I also notice that I'm a little older and it's wearing me out sometimes, but when I get to sit down and talk to somebody who is getting ready to start something new, and they've really thought it through, and we can bounce ideas back and forth because they're prepared, that's just the best. It's great when you find somebody who's done they leg work. If I have a question, they've got an answer they can tell you. I don't expect us not to make mistakes, but I do expect us to be prepared. That's probably my favorite thing, is to sit down with somebody who has thought through it all.

> "Most every day, I'm excited to come to work, because I know it's going to be interesting. It's the fulfillment of a dream, really, and I still feel that way a year later."

ES: Ms. Smith, what is something that most people don't know about you?

CS: Ooh, that's a good question. Let me think.

I literally, personally remodeled most of the inside of my house a couple of times. Walls, windows, doors, electrical, plumbing… Well, no, not the plumbing. I'm no good at plumbing. Plumbing doesn't count if you have to have it re-done. I did do the dishwasher and the gas. I ran the gas line. So, I can do most basic carpentry, tile, that kind of stuff. My dad used to own a bunch of houses, and if you were in trouble, the punishment was that you had to go work on houses. My sister is not skilled at all because she was never in trouble, but I got lots of construction experience in those days.

ES: Looking forward to the next year, what are your goals for the PEO?

CS: I still want to focus on talent management and portfolio management, but I do want us to take on more exciting new things. I would love to start to transition some of the old sustainment stuff, even if we end up a little leaner as a result and I would like us to be looking at the new, interesting stuff. When you see the capability in something like Army Leader Dashboard, or some of the new stuff that the ERP guys are coming out with, or the middleware stuff, that is just golden. Think about all the data challenges we have, and how technology is starting to provide the solutions to some of those issues.

We have been focused for 20 or 30 years on transactions and I think we're going to start really, truly making that leap to focusing on the data and the information. I'm just trying to position us so we can do that.

PEO EIS is now offering in-person refresher and advanced training for those who have completed TMT beginner training (either in-person or online).
To register for additional TMT training, visit:
https://www.milsuite.mil/book/groups/tmtsupport/
For technical issues with registration, TMT questions, or additional information, please reach out to the TMT Support Team at
usarmy.belvoir.peo-eis.mbx.tmt-support@mail.mil

Training Location:
9350 Hall Road
Building 1456 (Training Rooms 1603 A/B)
Fort Belvoir, VA 22060

PEO EIS participates in AFCEA Belvoir Industry Days

BY ELLEN SUMMEY, PEO EIS STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION DIRECTORATE

PEO EIS participated in the 2019 Armed Forces Communication and Electronics Association (AFCEA) Belvoir Industry Days, March 20-22, 2019 at the Gaylord Hotel and Convention Center in National Harbor, Maryland. Mr. Brendan Burke, acting deputy program executive officer, gave the luncheon keynote address on March 21. Burke also served as the moderator for the O-6 project manager (PM) panel the same day, which featured Col. Robert Mikesh of Army Enterprise Systems Integration Program, Ralph Ocasio of Global Fund Enterprise Business System, Salvador Batlle of Integrated Personnel and Pay System – Army (IPPS-A), Col. Enrique Costas of Defense Communications and Army Transmission Systems (DCATS), Col. Chad Harris of Defensive Cyber Operations (DCO) and Keith Baylor of Enterprise Services.

Engaging with industry has been a top priority for Program Executive Officer Chérie Smith, and the event was widely attended by leaders from the organization. In addition to providing speakers for panels and breakout sessions, PEO EIS also had a presence on the exhibit floor, with booth spaces representing PEO EIS headquarters, IPPS-A, DCATS, DCO, Computer Hardware, Enterprise Software and Solutions, Enterprise Content Collaboration and Messaging and Army Training Information System. The event had a total of 980 attendees, with 110 booths and 150 exhibitors.

"When we are able to spend a little time with industry, we can talk through the challenges and problems that we're both seeing," explained Burke. "When we have that opportunity to exchange ideas and ways of looking at the problem, I think we end up with a better chance of solving that problem."

"It's an opportunity to bring government and industry together, to get to know each other, collaborate, and see what's new," echoed Maj. Gen. Garrett Yee, military deputy to the Army Chief Information Officer/G6. "Whether it's from the podium, or out and about on the (exhibit) floor, we have a lot of opportunity to catch up and see what's going on in the Army."

The O-6 PM panel addressed a wide variety of topics, including organizational structure and upcoming procurement opportunities. (U.S. Army photo by Racquel Lockett- Finch, PEO EIS)

Acting Deputy PEO, Mr. Brendan Burke, gives the luncheon keynote address on March 21, 2019 at AFCEA Belvoir Industry Days. (U.S. Army photo by Racquel Lockett-Finch, PEO EIS)

APRIL 2019

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THUR	FRI	SAT
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7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

UPCOMING EVENTS

23 APR: AFCEA Belvoir Luncheon
Fort Belvoir, Va.
25 APR: PEO EIS Lunch and Learn
Fort Belvoir, Va.

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DAYS OF REMEMBRANCE 28 APRIL - 5 MAY 2019

Designed by DEOMI

DCO activates prototype strategy and delivers product to Cyber Command

BY BRITTNEY M. BROWN, DEFENSIVE CYBER OPERATIONS

CW3 Khamisi Bell executes a crucible exercise at DCO's Forge building. (U.S. Army photo by Brittney Brown, DCO)

Last year, Defensive Cyber Operations (DCO) devised a plan to deliver defensive cyber capability to Soldiers at a continuous, rapid and relevant pace. This year, DCO is putting that plan into action.

The implemented plan uses a three-pronged process to meet stakeholder requirements, including: the use of the Other Transaction Authority (OTA), industry consortia and a DCO facility called the Forge.

OTAs are purchasing agreements between agencies and industry that differ from traditional contracts. They offer a "try before you buy" process where prototypes are quickly acquired and evaluated against stakeholder requirements. The quick turnaround of prototypes procured through OTAs is beneficial to stakeholders who operate in critical, time-sensitive environments. DCO's main stakeholders are the Army's Cyber Protection Teams (CPTs), whose missions call for relevant defensive cyber products.

DCO is currently granting OTAs to industry vendors within the Systems of Systems Consortium (SOSSEC). Consortia are associations comprised of industry-specific members, e.g., vendors that offer defensive cyber solutions. Members can compete for OTAs individually or leverage the expertise of other vendors and collectively compete for an agreement. SOSSEC President Gene Del Coco says OTAs give vendors an incentive to establish transparent partnerships with other members, which in return provide the very best solutions to clients.

"DCO's use of the OTA process is groundbreaking for our members," said Del Coco. "The process quickly puts capital in the pockets of vendors, which is especially important to smaller companies who have great solutions, but are otherwise unable to compete with larger companies. The OTA will encourage traditional and non-traditional contractors to collaborate to produce a better product."

The Forge pulls the pieces of OTAs and consortia together and adds stakeholders to the mix. The facility is a physical, centralized space where stakeholders and industry can conduct capability demonstrations, prototype testing, capability integration and award OTAs.

"The Forge and the use of OTAs help mitigate the guessing game and the consortium allows us to properly leverage industry expertise," said Col. Harris, project manager for DCO. "In standard acquisition processes, industry and stakeholders can be kept in the dark about product usability until the capability is fully developed and delivered. By then, we've not only wasted contract dollars on equipment that's useless to Soldiers, but we'll also have to re-start the process of acquiring new solutions."

DCO's first experiment of the OTA-consortium-Forge concept was the purchase of the deployable DCO system (DDS) modular prototype. DDS modular is a deployable, multi-configurable hardware kit that can be easily transported on commercial aircraft or other means of transportation.

Soldiers like CW3 Khamisi Bell, of the Western Cyber Protection Center, will depend on DDS kits to execute their missions within the CPT. Bell was one of the first end users to participate in the OTA-consortium-Forge process.

"The advantage of interacting with industry at such an early stage in product development, is our ability as users to determine if the equipment can actually meet our needs," said Bell. "We also get to explore what capability gaps we need to fill while leveraging the industry input."

The DDS Modular OTA was granted to Sealing Tech in February 2019. Since then, Soldiers from Fort Gordon, Georgia have collaborated with the company to further develop the DDS model showcased in November 2018.

The Forge operates under DCO's Applied Cyber Technologies division, and is managed by Director Joe Kobsar. "The Forge is our gateway to innovation," Kobsar said. "We're proud that we've been able to provide a space where everyone has a seat at the table and can ensure that our Soldiers have what they need to defend the Army's enterprise network."

AIT and Armed Forces Ukraine conduct hand over ceremony

BY ROSALIE FEHRMANN, ALLIED INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

Ambassador Marie Yovanovich and other senior AFU representatives watch a system demonstration. (U.S. Army photo courtesy of AIT)

March 12, 2019 marked a major milestone for Allied Information Technology (AIT), the international programs office of PEO EIS. The Armed Forces Ukraine (AFU), along with AIT, hosted the U.S. Ambassador to Ukraine, Marie Yovanovitch; Ukraine's Deputy Minister of Defense, Oleg Shevchuk; and the Chief of Defense Forces, Viktor Muzhenko, at a ceremony commemorating the transition of responsibility for various mission command, cybersecurity and defense business system capabilities valued at nearly $25 million. These assets have been implemented by AIT in Ukraine, under the Ukraine Security Assistance Initiative (USAI) over the past three years.

The AFU general staff compound is one great example of how this funding is being used for restructuring, transforming and modernizing capabilities. The compound was upgraded to include 117 workstations and screens, ten servers, three video walls, over 5,500 meters of fiber optic and copper cable, power generators and heating, ventilation and air conditioning units. AIT is also assisting the AFU in developing brand new logistics and medical information systems that have never existed in their IT enterprise before, and will ultimately increase AFU's ability to provide logistics and medical support to troops in conflict areas.

"The success of this program has been, and continues to be, about relationships," explained Dan Hawkins, USAI project manager. Together, the U.S., Ukraine, and Allied forces work side by side to help lay the groundwork for Ukraine's long-term force readiness, while also helping to ensure Ukrainian troops are better trained to face both existing and future challenges. These relationships are ultimately aiding in the transformation of the AFU into a North Atlantic Treaty Organization compatible and interoperable force. Increasing command and control and defense business system capacity has long been a priority, not only of the U.S. European Command, but also of the Multinational Joint Commission.

"This is a great day and a great symbol of our wonderful partnership."

U.S. Ambassador to Ukraine, Marie Yovanovich

"This is a great day, and a great symbol of our wonderful partnership," said Ambassador Yovanovitch. "(This) work is not easy. It can be technically demanding, involves many agencies and involves many laws. However, we have undertaken this hard, challenging work together and with this type of partnership, I am confident in more future successes."

Ambassador Yovanovitch, Deputy Minister Shevchuk and senior officers of the AFU thanked AIT and its team of industry partners for their unwavering dedication to this project. "Their tireless efforts were instrumental to our success," Ambassador Yovanovitch said. "We look forward to more such occasions as these in the future!"

On-site training helps meet individual and collective training requirements

BY MEGAN QUICK, ARMY TRAINING INFORMATION SYSTEMS

Two members of the Army Training Information System (ATIS) Leidos Deployed Digital Training Campus (DDTC) team, Mr. Brandon Hazelwood and Mr. Jeffrey Dew, recently traveled to Del Din Vicenza, Italy and Camp Lemonier, Djibouti to provide on-site training and technical support.

The DDTC allows deployed Soldiers to participate in group or individual instruction through video tele-training, interactive multimedia instruction, web-based training, unit collaboration and professional development training through access to current distributed learning programs and constructive simulations. Currently, 16 of these systems are deployed and on-site visits


DDTC training team, S6 automation division, and J63 SatCom division, Camp Lemonnier, Djibouti, Africa. Pictured are (left to right) Spc. Joseph Camp, DDTC network engineer Jeffrey Dew, Staff Sgt. Jason Trerotola, DDTC systems architect Brandon Hazelwood, Capt. Larry McFarland, Sgt. 1st Class Wilfredo Barreto, Staff Sgt. Emad Fayad and Spc. Ben Wa. (U.S. Army photo by Brandon Hazelwood)

provide training for and technical enhancements to the existing systems. For example, the trip to Del Din Vicenza provided wireless capabilities that allow students to train in different locations. DDTC also provided external hardware to enhance the virtual battle simulator application, to support full application integration with a flight simulation system.

"These peripherals will go very far toward the use and enhancement of the systems in place. All Soldiers will benefit as a result," said Edward Tierney, a senior consultant with Booz Allen Hamilton who supports the Vampire Institutional Training System and Aegis Unmanned Aerial System Pilot Training Simulation System at Vicenza.

With such continual on-site visits, deployed Soldiers will always be ready to train as they fight.

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Investing in knowledge: strengthening IPPS-A human resources analytics

BY EDUARDO SALINAS, INTEGRATED PERSONNEL AND PAY SYSTEM – ARMY

Benjamin Franklin once said "an investment in knowledge pays the best interest." This founding father's common sense wisdom is applicable in many ways. For Army commanders, understanding human resources actions data on their units' strength and manpower, and the unique talents of each Soldier, enables more effective leadership and management of these personnel. This knowledge is key to increasing readiness to enable units to accomplish their mission.
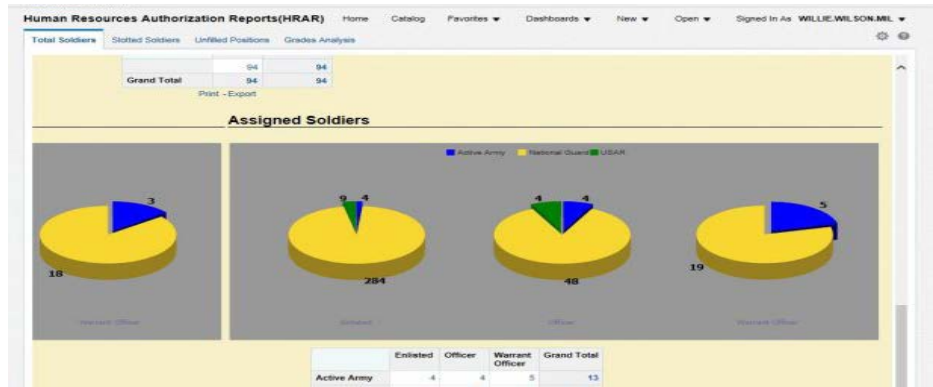
The HRAR provides visibility on all Soldiers within a unit by showing authorized strength and open positions in near real-time. (U.S. Army image courtesy of IPPS-A)

In Franklin's home state of Pennsylvania – where the Army National Guard is beginning to field the Army's next generation human resources (HR) and pay management system – Franklin's ideas are especially relevant. With fielding of the Integrated Personnel and Pay System – Army (IPPS-A) underway, Pennsylvania Army National Guard (PA ARNG) analytics subject matter experts partnered with functional and technical experts from the IPPS-A program to improve the business intelligence and analytics capabilities of the system. These capabilities will allow commanders and HR professionals to see their formations at greater fidelity than ever before and inform decisions that will enhance combat power and lethality.

Making informed decisions with human resources analytics

IPPS-A brings HR analytics capabilities to the Army, which consolidate data via ad hoc queries to enable decision makers to see the data in a new way. The foundation of this capability is the "data warehouse," an analytical platform that aggregates vast amounts of data from several sources.

The system includes tools that organize and present information in intuitive formats that will enable commanders to make decisions based on data. IPPS-A's powerful analytical capabilities will also transform the role of HR professionals into human resources analysts, a key step for the Army to gain greater value from the Adjutant General's Corps.

HRAR as a strength management decision-making tool

Strength management is a critical to ensuring the Army is prepared to meet the diverse national security challenges the nation faces. Matching officers and enlisted Soldiers with units and organizations that accomplish military missions is paramount to readiness.

Today in ARNG units across the United States, human resources professionals and their commanders rely on individual spreadsheets and databases like the Unit Manning Roster to provide a snapshot of their units. These products require hundreds of man hours to analyze vast amounts of information in order to glean actionable insights. With IPPS-A, human resources professionals and commanders will initially rely on the Human Resources Authorization Report (HRAR) to provide associations between personnel authorizations and Soldiers in their units. This report provides visibility on all Soldiers within a unit by showing authorized strength and open positions.

"For the commander, the HRAR is an enhancement that adds capabilities they did not have before for visibility of their units at the company, battalion, brigade or division levels," said Maj. Joshua Herr, chief of the PA ARNG G1 readiness division. "Allowing Commanders and human resources professionals to share this near real-time picture of their unit benefits both parties."

IPPS-A presents the HRAR in four different tabs within the system. The "Total Soldiers" tab provides summaries of the total Soldiers in the unit, the number of slotted Soldiers in the unit, the number of unfilled positions in the unit, and a position grades analysis. The "Slotted Soldiers" tab displays the number of Soldiers placed in assigned or slotted positions in a unit. The "Unfilled Positions" tab displays the displays the number of vacant positions within a unit. The "Position Grades Analysis" displays the personnel position where the assigned grade is either higher or lower than the actual grade of the Soldier filling that position.

Each tab breaks down data and displays it in tables, graphs and pie charts. Most of these visualizations are interactive and intuitive, providing users with the ability to select objects and drill down to the root data for a more detailed analysis. The data can also be exported to standard file types including Adobe PDF, Microsoft Excel and HTML formats.

The data and visualizations presented in IPPS-A are directly linked to the role of the user within the system. Human resources professionals will only be able to view data for their own units, while brigade commanders would be able to view information for units within their brigades. Users will also be able to filter their data by a variety of subsets including Army component, military personnel category, unit identification code and military occupation specialty code, tables of distribution and allowances, modified tables of organization and equipment, grades, authorization documents and date ranges.

"One of the main reasons our Soldiers prefer to use the HRAR is its simplicity," said Herr. "It is generated by a single click."

Partnering with stakeholders to get the HRAR right

IPPS-A's HRAR capabilities grew out of needs expressed by Army commanders and HR professionals for improved visibility of the personnel in their units. As the PA ARNG began fielding the system, stakeholders provided valuable feedback to IPPS-A development team to refine the system's HRAR capability. This led to the formation of a team consisting of PA ARNG subject matter experts and business intelligence experts from the IPPS-A program to focus on getting the HRAR right to meet the needs of the Army National Guard. This included making improvements to the HRAR's layout, addressing missing data content, and enhancing reliability.

> "One of the main reasons our Soldiers prefer to use the HRAR is its simplicity. It is generated by a single click."

"One of the major accomplishments was the ability as a state user to drill down to the subordinate commands," Herr said. "The team was able to implement a saved customization to allow drilling down to each brigade combat team, with more levels in the future."

The team also focused on tuning the HRAR to display position-specific information needed by Army National Guard decision makers. Early versions of the HRAR in IPPS-A were based only on Soldier information according to CW3 Dong Lee, IPPS-A data and analytics technician. The HRAR displayed information about Soldiers (e.g., additional skills identifiers, special qualification identifiers, security clearance, languages, etc.) instead of position-specific information. This approach created challenges since not every Soldier was slotted against authorized positions within units. But based on this situation, the IPPS-A team was able to configure the HRAR to display the information needed by commanders and HR professionals.

"We created separate dimensions and measurements for positions to display authorized and assigned numbers as well as position-specific data," said Lee.

Looking Ahead

The collaborative effort to the address the HRAR highlights the commitment of IPPS-A developers to work with stakeholders to ensure the system is built to meet the needs of its customers. It has also an important element of the overall development of the system. Stakeholder feedback has influenced the development of several functionalities within the system including HR and pay transactions and customer relationship management.

"As a team, we were able to make changes to the HRAR very quickly to improve its efficiency on almost a daily basis," said Herr. "The group was open and receptive to all ideas, while maintaining the basis that the HRAR will be used by all three components of the United States Army."

IPPS-A developers are working to strengthen the system's human resources analytics capabilities. Work is currently underway to increase the amount of data stored in the "data warehouse" that will widen the analytical spectrum for users. Developers are also implementing Qlik Sense, an analytics tool that provides powerful search and exploration features that will enable users to analyze data by interacting with charts and visualizations. Additionally, IPPS-A will be able to generate other important reports – such as the Total Boots on the Ground Report and the Unit Manning Report – that will help commanders and planners make actionable data-driven decisions.

With an up-front investment in developing IPPS-A's business intelligence capabilities, the Army will be able to see itself in ways never before imagined, and use these perspectives to enhance the Service's lethality and readiness. Ben Franklin would be proud.

CHESS provides training to the Department of the Navy

BY AMANDA GILBERT, COMPUTER HARDWARE, ENTERPRISE SOFTWARE AND SOLUTIONS

Members of the CHESS team provided training to Department of the Navy personnel in Norfolk, Virginia on March 27, 2019. (U.S. Army photo by Amanda Gilbert, CHESS)

A team from Computer Hardware, Enterprise Software and Solutions (CHESS) traveled to Norfolk, Virginia to provide training to Department of the Navy (DON) personnel on March 27, 2019 as part of the DON's category management training. Category management is an approach the federal government is taking to eliminate redundancies, increase efficiency and deliver more value from acquisition programs.

The training is part of the DON's strategy to ensure all appropriate department personnel are kept informed of the latest category management information and remain compliant with their fiscal year 2019 budget process and Office of Management and Budget's (OMB) latest implementation. The three-day event focused on different segments of the acquisition community: category management, information technology solutions, and procurement and requirement development tools.

CHESS Hardware and Services Lead, Ms. Ylander Jones, presented a program overview to the deputy assistant secretary of the Navy for acquisition and procurement and over 60 contracting specialists, contracting officers and strategic sourcing program management office employees. The overview covered CHESS' role in supporting the deputy chief information officer (CIO)/G-6 efforts to emphasize the importance of category management and strategic sourcing through aligning the Army's commercial off-the-shelf IT contracts with OMB and CIO/G-6 initiatives.

Jones provided qualitative details on each of the CHESS indefinite-delivery/indefinite-quantity contract vehicles, including CHESS' Army Desktop and Mobile Computing – 2 hardware contract, the Army's mandated source for laptops and desktops and OMB's designated best-in-class contract for IT category management. In addition, she provided the attendees with information on the consolidated buy process and the reverse auction capability through the CHESS IT e-mart. National Institutes of Health Information Technology Acquisition and Assessment Center Deputy Director, Glynis Fisher and Deputy Program Manager for NASA Solutions for Enterprise-Wide Acquisition Contracts, Darlene Coen were also in attendance.

For additional information on CHESS 101 briefings or specialized CHESS trainings, please contact Tricia Shelley at tricia.a.shelley.ctr@mail.mil.

In Memory of

Mr. Irving Newell

PEO EIS OPERATIONS TEAM

Irving Newell, operations team facility manager and 22 year employee of PEO EIS, passed away unexpectedly at his home on March 31, 2019. Irv was a native of Alabama who began his career with our organization in uniform, as a Sergeant First Class, next returning as a contractor and then as a proud Army Civilian. Irv's wife, Kathleen, is also a member of the Army family – they met and married when they were both in uniform, and Kathleen worked for the Fort Belvoir Garrison as a Management Analyst for many years. Irv was a devoted husband and caretaker.

Irv was known for being one of the kindest, most upbeat people you would ever meet. He met every request and challenge with a can-do attitude, and he genuinely cared about people and about his teammates.

He was also a nurturer and a feeder. He loved to cook and to share meals with friends and family, and he was the known grill master around PEO EIS. One teammate recounted that when Org Day planning would begin each year, Irv was the first to show up to the meeting, eager to begin putting it together. And in the spirit of the season and fellowship, Irv and Tony Kendrick bought and served Thanksgiving for their teammates every year. Irv loved that – feeding people, making people happy.

There wasn't anything you could ask for that Irv would consider too big a challenge, and he always made the work seem easy, though we know it wasn't always. His loss is not just a devastating loss to this team, but to the many people who work for and support the Garrison – he touched many lives and was beloved by so many.

PEO EIS is a strong community and losses like this are hard to process. May it be a comfort to everyone to consider that where there is deep grief, there was great love.

How lucky we all were to know Irving Newell.

Mr. Dan Hawkins, (right)AIT country program manager for Ukraine, presents PEO EIS coins to the U.S. Ambssador to Ukraine and the Ukraine Chief of Defense. (U.S. Army photo courtesty of AIT)
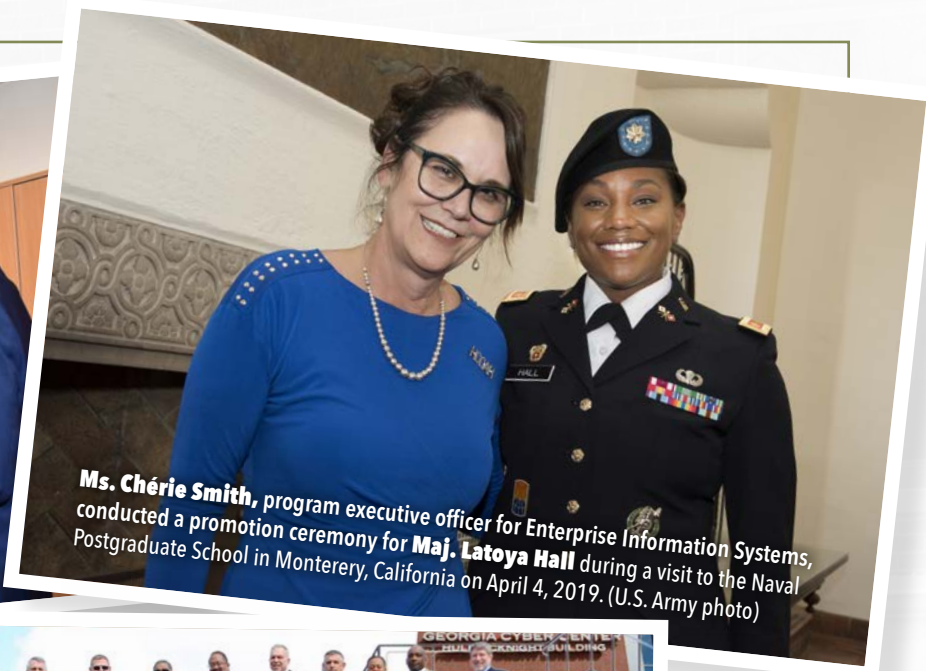
Ms. Chérie Smith, program executive officer for Enterprise Information Systems, conducted a promotion ceremony for Maj. Latoya Hall during a visit to the Naval Postgraduate School in Monterey, California on April 4, 2019. (U.S. Army photo)

Mr. Brendan Burke, acting deputy program executive officer for Enterprise Information Systems (front left), attended the Theater Synchronization Review at the Georgia Cyber Center in Augusta, Georgia on March 6, 2019. (U.S. Army photo courtesy of 7th Signal Command (Theater) Strategic Communication)
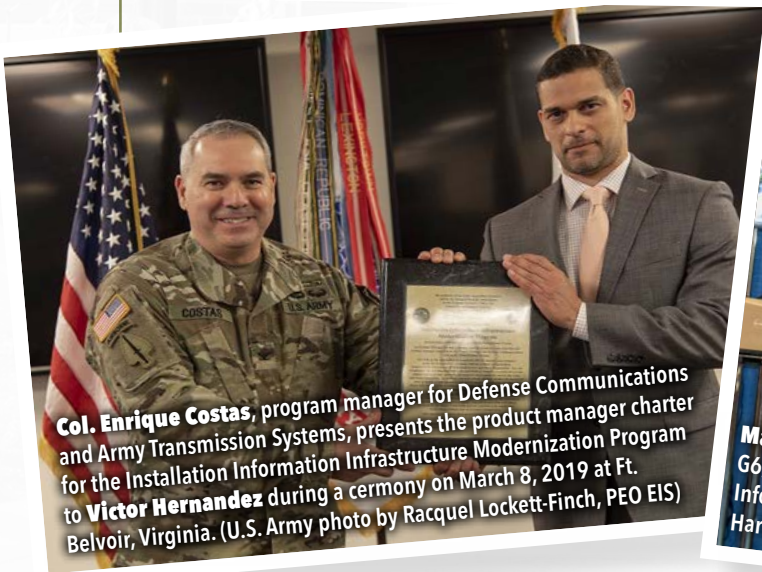
Col. Enrique Costas, program manager for Defense Communications and Army Transmission Systems, presents the product manager charter for the Installation Information Infrastructure Modernization Program to Victor Hernandez during a cermony on March 8, 2019 at Ft. Belvoir, Virginia. (U.S. Army photo by Racquel Lockett-Finch, PEO EIS)

Maj. Gen. Garrett Yee (left), military deputy to the Army chief information officer / G6, enjoys a laugh with Ms. Chérie Smith, program executive officer for Enterprise Information Systems at AFCEA Belvoir Industry Days, Mar. 22, 2019, in National Harbor, Maryland. (U.S. Army photo by Racquel Lockett-Finch)

EIS SNAPS