

## **PEO EIS hosts town hall for workforce**

BY ELLEN SUMMEY, PEO EIS STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION DIRECTORATE



Program Executive Officer Chérie A. Smith speaks about recent leadership changes during a town hall event held July 23, 2019 at the Wood Theater on Fort Belvoir, Virginia. (U.S. Army photo by Laura Edwards, PEO EIS)

It was standing room only for the town hall event hosted by Program Executive Officer Chérie A. Smith on July 23, 2019 at the Wood Theater on Fort Belvoir, Virginia. During the two-hour event, Smith discussed the organization's strategic priorities, new project leadership teams and proposed changes to the PEO mission areas. The mission area realignment is still pre-decisional, but would posture the PEO for future innovation and efficiency.

Covering a wide range of timely topics, Smith also gave a preview of the soon-to-be-completed new PEO EIS public website, which is expected to launch in October 2019. The site features responsive design and will improve user experience for stakeholders. Smith also outlined a number of upcoming events and the discussed the results of this year's re-baselined Contribution-Based Compensation and Appraisal System (CCAS) process.



Attendees fill the Wood Theater as other members of the workforce watch the town hall live streamed. (U.S. Army photo by Laura Edwards, PEO EIS)

Smith then presented civilian service awards to several honorees and recognized others who were not in attendance. To conclude the event, Deputy PEO Brendan Burke joined Smith on stage to take questions from the audience. The event was live streamed for personnel in outlying areas and the full video is available on SharePoint, along with the slide presentation and responses to additional audience member questions: <a href="https://peoeis.kc.army.mil/SitePages/townhall.aspx">https://peoeis.kc.army.mil/SitePages/townhall.aspx</a>

### ATIS supports West Virginia ARNG at 24<sup>th</sup> World Scout Jamboree

BY RACHEL CHRISTIE, ARMY TRAINING INFORMATION SYSTEM



Earlier this year, Congress authorized over 1,200 members of our Armed Forces to provide critical support capabilities at the 24th World Scout Jamboree, an event bringing together over 40,000 young people from around the world to learn leadership and life skills. This event also provides the opportunity to combine training opportunities within the DOD and other agencies, increasing synchronization and sustainability.

The task for the West Virginia Army National Guard (WVARNG) was a daunting one. The Army National Guard only has a two-week period every year to complete all of its

ATIS supplied two deployed digital training campus (DDTC) systems in support of the West Virginia Army National Guard at the 24th World Scout Jamboree at Summit Bechtel Reserve, Mt. Hope, West Virginia. (U.S. Army photo courtesy of ATIS)

required annual training. Answering the training requirement, WVARNG reached out to Army Training Information System (ATIS) and asked the team to provide a solution. This is the second year that ATIS has come through, delivering critical support by guaranteeing Soldiers the ability to train for their current mission while supporting this monumental event.

In response, ATIS supplied two of their deployed digital training campus (DDTC) systems to the WVARNG. The campus delivers a training operation capability by using satellite-based wide area network (WAN) links. These links provide Soldiers the resources they need in order to complete mission-critical training when their unit is operating in austere environments.

"The World Scout Jamboree was the perfect venue to showcase the DDTC," said Lt. Col. Jim Lee, product manager for ATIS. "Mt. Hope, West Virginia is a remote location and the DDTC was specifically designed to support training in this type of austere environment."

Over the two-week period, more than 40 ARNG Soldiers and Army civilians completed training at the DDTCs. Sgt. 1st Class Aaron Gerwig, a platoon sergeant in 119th Sappers, brought his section to the DDTC at Base Camp Glen Jean after hours. His section used the campus to complete distributed leader courses required for promotion. Additionally Staff Sgt. Adam Pistelli was able to complete his required ammunition training for his newly assigned position.

The DDTC proved to be a valuable training resource for Soldiers and civilians supporting the 24th World Scout Jamboree.

#### **UPCOMING EVENTS**

16 AUG:	AMIS Assumption of Charter, Fort Belvoir, VA	5 SEPT:	PEO EIS Newcomers Brief, Fort Belvoir, VA	All Saints Ball, Springfield, VA AUSA Conference,
20-22 AUG:	AFCEA TechNet Augusta, Augusta, GA	25 SEPT:	AFCEA Belvoir Luncheon, Fort Belvoir, VA	 Washington, D.C.
29 AUG:	Lunch & Learn, Fort Belvoir, VA	26 SEPT:	Ralph Ocasio Retirement Ceremony, Fort Belvoir, VA	

## CHESS, ACC-RI award ADMC-3

BY AMANDA GILBERT, COMPUTER HARDWARE, ENTERPRISE SOFTWARE AND SOLUTIONS



On July 26, 2019, Computer Hardware, Enterprise Software and Solutions (CHESS), in coordination with the Army Contracting Command – Rock Island, competitively awarded Army Desktop Mobile Computing – 3 (ADMC-3), a \$5 billion firm-fixed price, multiple award, Indefinite-Delivery/Indefinite-Quantity contract.

ADMC-3 is a commodities hardware contract vehicle that offers commercial off-the-shelf (COTS) Information Technology (IT), including laptops, desktops, notebooks, multifunction devices and more to the government customer. Unlike its predecessor, ADMC-2, this new iteration will offer a consolidated buy (CB) period three times during the year, (Jan-April, May-Aug, and Sept-Dec). All desktop and/or notebook computers must be purchased through CHESS during the CB periods. CHESS implemented the extremely cost-effective CB process in direct support of the chief information officer G-6 strategy for leveraging the Army's buying power in acquiring COTS computer technology. By providing the CB period in consecutive cycles during the year, the ADMC-3 contract will enable the Army to maximize its cost avoidance, keep pace with technology advancements and help get new technology to the warfighter more efficiently.

"The Army has a different mission in a different environment than the rest of the federal government," explained CHESS Product Officer Rick Klemencic. "As the primary source to support the warfighter's IT requirements, CHESS, via the ADMC-3 contract, focuses on satisfying these unique requirements, where other government contracts do not."

### "The Army has a different mission in a different environment than the rest of the federal government."

Eight vendors were awarded contracts, including three incumbent

ADMC-2 vendors. Five small businesses received awards, providing customers the ability to conduct fair competitions with small businesses.

Ordering will begin after the contractors' phase-in periods end and will be open to the Army, DOD and all federal agencies, including authorized government contractors supporting these agencies. As with all CHESS contracts, ordering through ADMC-3 is decentralized. The ADMC-3 contract has a no usage fee and aligns with the Office of Management and Budget's Best-in-Class as well as the Army's Strategic Sourcing initiatives.

For a full listing of awardees and further information on ADMC-3, visit the CHESS IT e-mart at https://chess.army.mil.

# AESIP Hub offers new obligation adjustment reporting capabilities

BY MAJ. REGINALD GHOLSTON, ARMY ENTERPRISE SYSTEMS INTEGRATION PROGRAM HUB

Accurately and effectively tracking prior year requisitions has always been a mission-critical Army function. Over the years, however, auditors have found issues with requisition cancellations that affect the Army's ability to effectively monitor funds activities, which subsequently decreases the Army's buying power. To help improve how "Big Army" tracks and manages requisitions and its associated obligated funding, the Army Enterprise Systems Integration Program (AESIP) Hub, in conjunction with Combined Arms Support Command (CASCOM), has delivered improved obligation adjustment reports through the Army enterprise resource planning (ERP) programs.

Through tailored business intelligence (BI) reporting capabilities within the Army ERPs, namely Global Combat Support System – Army (GCSS-Army), AESIP Hub has delivered more accurate reporting of upward and downward obligation adjustments and other types of balance reports, with various levels of detail. The Hub team used BI to extract relevant data and group it

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in various ways to be summarized on a commander's dashboard. The team then designed the dashboard for ease of access to data and reports, which is incorporated into the Army Readiness-Common Operating Picture (AR-COP) platform, an existing BI capability used Army-wide for various logistics reporting requirements. The Hub team also linked data back into GCSS-Army to provide the lowest level of detail for purchase requisitions and cancellations.

With detailed data and intuitive reporting that can be viewed in a variety of ways, this new AESIP Hub reporting capability is making a difference for how "Big Army" tracks obligated funding in order to address audit findings, improve accountability and create greater transparency for how and where the Army uses taxpayer dollars.

# Enterprise Services names new product leads

BY DEVORAH GOLDBURG, ENTERPRISE SERVICES

Project Director for Enterprise Services (PD ES) Lee James III hosted a double ceremony on Wednesday July 10, 2019 at Fort Belvoir, Virginia, to welcome two new product leads.

During the ceremony, Gus Burnside II assumed the charter as product lead for Army Enterprise Staff Management System (AESMS) and Wayne Sok assumed the charter as product lead for Computer Hardware, Enterprise Software and Solutions (CHESS).

Attendees learned that Burnside brings with him a wealth of military and government knowledge. His wife Michelle is retired Navy and Gus is a retired Army aviator, who also managed counter narcotics and law enforcement programs for 11 countries in western and central Africa.

"Gus is a pretty interesting guy, I've only known him a few weeks now, but he has a twinkle in his eye and is most proud of his heritage," said James. "Another thing Gus doesn't do is brag about himself, but he served in Operation Iraqi Freedom and Operation Enduring Freedom and I believe Gus is well equipped to lead the AESMS program into the future."

Burnside thanked Tom Neff, the previous project director for ES, noting that Neff taught him everything he knew about acquisitions. "I would come in the morning and breathe acquisitions and every afternoon and evening I would breathe acquisitions," Burnside said. He concluded his remarks with a quote from Napoleon. "A leader is a dealer in hope and product lead AESMS is full of hope."

As part of the ceremony, outgoing Product Lead for CHESS, Doug Haskin, received the Superior Civilian Service Citation for outstanding support. Haskin's efforts ensured that Soldiers received world-class, commercial IT solutions when they needed them, while saving the Army millions of dollars that were made available to invest in readiness.



Outgoing CHESS Product Lead (PL) Doug Haskin (left) and ES Project Director Lee James III (center) present the CHESS charter to incoming CHESS PL Wayne Sok (right). (U.S. Army photo by Laura Edwards, PEO EIS)



ES Project Director Lee James III (left) presided over the assumption of charter ceremony for incoming AESMS PL Gus Burnside II (right). (U.S. Army photo by Laura Edwards, PEO EIS)

"Doug was on his rise during his Transportation Information Systems days and he is still trending upward," said James. "I admire his ability to listen, observe, think and then communicate and act clearly with confidence that demands respect."

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During his time as product lead, Haskin was responsible for the oversight of the delivery, implementation and management of the CHESS portfolio of contracts. This consisted of multiple Indefinite-Delivery/Indefinite-Quantity (ID/IQ) contracts with more than 187 vendors and more than 11 software agreements that exceed \$43 billion in total value. He also expertly guided the efforts of the Information Technology Enterprise Solutions – 3 Services (ITES-3S), the momentous services multiple award ID/IQ contract vehicle.

### "Wayne is the right person to take over CHESS, he is ready for this and will take the team to the next level."

Haskin then spoke about incoming CHESS product lead, Wayne Sok. "Wayne is an awesome deputy, he is an awesome leader and has been my battle buddy," Haskin said. "Wayne is the right person to take over CHESS, he is ready for this and will take the team to the next level."

Sok also has military service in his family background. His father, Justin Sok, served with the Republic of Korea Army and his older brother was a West Point graduate and Army Ranger. In addition, he served in combat tour during Operation Iraqi Freedom in 2003. He holds a master's degree in program management from the Naval Postgraduate School and most recently had the distinguished honor of attending the Harvard Kennedy School Executive Education – senior executive fellows program.

During the ceremony, Sok asked the CHESS team to stand up and be recognized for the work they do. He said the change of charter is not only about leadership, but is also about the program and the team. "The people at CHESS are top notch, every single one of the folks are high-speed and are ready to support the Army."

James noted that Sok served as an executive officer (XO) for two years at PEO EIS headquarters. James said whenever he saw Sok, he always cheerful and upbeat, which was impressive in such a fast-paced and demanding role. "He always had a smile on his face," said James.

"To CHESS, I promise to continue to give you my 100 percent every day," said Sok. "To my new boss Mr. James, everyone in CHESS is excited to have you on board and we are looking forward to [working with you]."

# P2E Supports 335<sup>th</sup> pathway to diversity groundbreaking

BY MAVIA HANSON, POWER PROJECTION ENABLERS

On June 25th, 2019 at Camp Arifjan Kuwait, Power Projection Enablers (P2E), in conjunction with the 335th Signal Command (T)(P) and Tyto Athene, hosted an inside plant (ISP)/outside plant (OSP) pathway diversity groundbreaking event. This ceremony signified the initiation of construction, a crucial phase in project completion.

The intent of the pathway diversity project is to eliminate single points of failure and increase resiliency within the U.S.



P2E hosted a groundbreaking ceremony, in conjunction with 335th Signal Command (T)(P), at Camp Arifjan, Kuwait on June 25, 2019. (U.S. Army photo courtesy of 335th Signal Command (T)(P))

Army network infrastructure at Camp Arifjan. The modernization will provide for remediation of OSP/ISP infrastructure which includes; the installation of manholes, concrete-encased duct banks and five new communications shelters. These infrastructure improvements will lay the physical foundation for future network improvements and keep the network updated with regulatory strategic network policies.

During the event, 335th Signal Command (T)(P) commander, Brig. Gen. Nikki L. Griffin Olive, emphasized the value in the Army having a robust network for the warfighter. She articulated that competitive edge in modern warfare comes from the preparation put into the modernizing and constantly building up the network. Col. Enrique L. Costas, project manager for Defense Communications and Army Transmission Systems (DCATS) reiterated Olive's points, highlighting that modernizing the network remains a top priority for the Army. This project was spearheaded by P2E Southwest Asia, with the support of the 335th Signal Command (T)(P), the Information Systems Engineering Command and Mission 1ST.

# PEO EIS welcomes new deputy project managers

BY SUSAN MCGOVERN, PEO EIS STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION DIRECTORATE

Summer is always a season of transition for our organization and this year is no exception. We have welcomed several new deputy project managers, and we would like to introduce them to you through these brief interviews.

#### ARIC SHERWOOD, DCATS



Aric Sherwood, deputy project manager for DCATS (U.S. Army photo by Susan McGovern, PEO EIS)

Aric Sherwood recently joined PEO EIS as deputy project manager for Defense Communications and Army Transmission Systems (DCATS), which is supported by more than 400 people. He grew up in Punxsutawney, a small town in western Pennsylvania. After high school, he enlisted in the U.S. Army and served in the 3d Ranger Battalion for four years. He previously worked for Assistant Secretary of the Army - Acquisition, Logistics & Technology, Defense Information Systems Agency and United States Special Operations Command (USSOCOM).

#### HAVE YOU READ ANY GOOD BOOKS LATELY?

I just finished James Kerr's "Legacy," which explains why the New Zealand All Blacks rugby team is the best in the world. It's about selecting the right people. If you are the best rugby player in the world, but your personality doesn't mesh with the team's, you don't become an All Blacks. At USSOCOM, we had a saying: we would rather hire the right person and train them to do the job than hire a qualified person that doesn't fit.

#### WHO INSPIRES YOU?

My grandfather, a child of Irish and German immigrants, is a self-made man. He is not a millionaire, but he made a very comfortable life for his six kids and wife by working hard in the construction industry. He never met a person he didn't like and sees value in everyone. I aspire to be more like him. Everyone has value. We need ditch diggers just as much as bankers.

#### HOW WOULD YOU LIKE TO BE REMEMBERED?

I don't crave the spotlight and am not concerned about my legacy. I would much rather promote the people who are

doing the work so they get the accolades. My job is to deflect face shots that are coming our way and take responsibility for the things we are not doing well.

#### IF YOU COULD GO BACK IN TIME, WHERE WOULD YOU GO?

When I served in the Army Rangers, we read a lot of paperback books about the Long-Range Reconnaissance Patrols in Vietnam. I would love to go back and meet some of those Rangers.

#### WHAT'S THE BEST ADVICE YOU RECEIVED?

Do the things you have to do and then do the things you want to do. I fail at this all the time. If you get up in the morning and do the things that need to be done that day, the rest of the day is yours.

#### MARTY ZYBURA, GFEBS



Marty Zybura, deputy project manager for GFEBS (U.S. Army photo by Susan McGovern, PEO EIS)

Marty Zybura joins PEO EIS as deputy project manager for General Fund Enterprise Business System (GFEBS), with a workforce of more than 200 people. A New York Giants fan, he grew up in Garfield, New Jersey, a blue-collar town in northern New Jersey. After graduating from West Point, he served in the U.S. Army for 27 years, retiring as a colonel. His last position in the Army was chief of staff to the U.S. Army Contracting Command. He has three years of experience as a civilian at Assistant Secretary of the Army - Acquisition, Logistics & Technology, where he worked in the Deputy for Acquisition and Systems Management office supporting the PEO EIS and PEO Command Control Communications-Tactical (C3T) portfolios.

### YOU HAVE 17 YEARS OF EXPERIENCE IN THE ARMY ACQUISITION FIELD. HOW HAS ARMY CONTRACTING CHANGED?

The Army is better at building requirements, but there is still room for improvement. If you don't do that correctly, you are not going to get the rest of the acquisition right. After the "Gansler Report" was released in 2007, the Army enhanced its oversight of contracting and improved the contracting workforce's training and leadership. When it was released, there were no general officers in contracting. Today, you have a number of Army general officers who understand contracting. For example, the U.S. Army Contracting Command is led by a two-star.

#### WHAT ADVICE DO YOU HAVE FOR INDUSTRY?

Don't be intimidated by the policies and regulations. If you have a good idea or process that will help Soldiers, try to do business with the Army. We want new vendors with good ideas to compete for work.

#### WHAT IS THE KEY TO YOUR CAREER SUCCESS?

Persistence. Every day presents different challenges. You have to understand how challenges affect the mission and people in the organization. I have also had great mentors. I learned a lot from Col. Stephen Bianco, the former commander of the U.S. Army Contracting Command Korea. When I was a young major in one of my early acquisition assignments, he provided steady leadership to an organization undergoing a major transition.

#### HAVE YOU READ ANY GOOD BOOKS LATELY?

I am reading "You've Got 8 Seconds." People have short attention spans. If you want to get a message across, you have to understand your audience and be quick in getting to the point. At the Pentagon, I learned how important that is. Information provided in response to Assistant Secretary of the Army (Acquisition, Logistics and Technology) requests is critical because senior Army leaders may make funding and program decisions based on content provided in an Information Paper. It is important to provide succinct and focused information.

#### WHAT IS THE BEST ADVICE YOU RECEIVED?

My father told me, "Nothing is free. You have to earn everything you get." Even if you are not currently in your dream job, you should always try to do your best at the job you are in.

#### MIKE PAYNE, ES



Mike Payne, deputy project manager for ES (U.S. Army photo by Susan McGovern, PEO EIS)

Mike Payne is the new Deputy Project Manager for Enterprise Services (ES). A Red Sox fan, Payne grew up in Worcester, a small city in central Massachusetts. After graduating from Penn State with a major in mechanical engineering technology, he started his civil service career in 1989 at Fort Belvoir supporting Mobile Electric Power. Before joining PEO EIS, he was chief information officer at PEO C3T.

#### WHAT IS THE KEY TO YOUR CAREER SUCCESS?

I have a get-it-done attitude. When senior leaders tell you what needs to be done, they don't like to hear "this is why we can't do it." You have to figure out how to spend the money and get it on contract.

#### WHY DID YOU DECIDE TO JOIN PEO EIS?

I enjoy coaching people and look forward to developing the next generation of acquisition leaders. When a program meets a milestone or is successful, it's important to find something more challenging for the strong performers on the team. That motivates people. If you slow down career growth, people leave. PEO EIS has a culture that provides opportunities for growth.

#### WHAT IS REQUIRED TO BE SUCCESSFUL IN ARMY ACQUISITION?

You need strong soft skills. When I was at Mobile Electric Power, Ms. Kelly Alexander would pull engineers aside to coach them how to develop their soft skills. She taught me how to get people engaged in meetings. If you are leading an Integrated Process Team (IPT), you have to make sure every participant is providing a little input.

Program managers have to develop strong relationships with the contracting officer and budget lead. Be transparent with the acquisition team. If you go behind a person's back, you lose trust. And when you lose trust, it's gone forever or very hard to get back. If you are open with the contracting officer and budget leads and bring them to meetings, they will understand what leadership wants and help you figure out how to get it done.

#### DO YOU HAVE ANY ADVICE FOR INDUSTRY?

Be open with us. If we release a draft solicitation, don't just say, "Well, if that's what you are looking for, we will give it to you." Tell us, "We can give you a better product if you structure your contract this way."

In Northern Virginia's IT job market, you are continually losing people to competitors. Tell us how we can structure our contract so we can hold onto a workforce for the full period of performance.

#### WHO INSPIRES YOU?

My parents. They always pushed me, but they didn't push me too hard. They didn't say, "You better come home with 'A's." They said, "Try your best and we will always be here for you." When I was 14, I told my mother I wanted to try scuba diving. She let me try even though I almost drowned twice as a kid. I became a certified scuba diver at the age of 14.

# GCSS-Army volunteers complete second year of mentorship program

BY DESSERRAE STEPHENS, GLOBAL COMBAT SUPPORT SYSTEM – ARMY



GCSS-Army team members and school administrators participate in a recognition and awards ceremony, June 10, 2019 in Prince George, Virginia. Pictured are (left to right), Danica Coleman-Millner, Amber Thompson, Tana Jones, Isaac McKay and Lt. Col. Preston Hayward. (Courtesy photo by Chaundra Taswell, N.B. Clements Junior High School)

In June 2019, Global Combat Support System – Army (GCSS-Army) and Prince George County Public Schools completed the second successful year of the Providing Adolescents Leadership Skills and Support (PALS) mentorship program. The PALS program allows GCSS-Army team members to partner with N. B. Clements Junior High School students via weekly meetings to exchange experiences, work through challenges and provide guidance to students during their adolescent years. A huge success in its initial year, the PALS program was expanded in academic year 2018-2019, to include three additional mentor/mentee teams at Prince George High School.

Throughout the academic year, the GCSS-Army mentor team provided volunteers for the N.B. Clements Junior High School Inclusion Revolution Field Day; and chaperoned the winter and spring dances at N.B. Clements Junior High School. Additionally, the GCSS-Army mentors hosted two field trips to the U.S. Army Quartermaster and Women's Museums at

Fort Lee, Virginia for more than 175 students. During the tours, the students learned about the history of the Quartermaster Corps and contributions of women to the Army.

At the end of the school year, the GCSS-Army Product Manager, Lt. Col. Preston Hayward presented certificates of achievement to the 16 junior high school students who participated in the mentoring program this year.

The GCSS-Army team plans to continue and expand the partnership in academic year 2019–2020. The mentors find the time spent with students personally rewarding, while the students value their time spent with mentors; evidenced by the number of students who plan to participate next year. PALS is a community outreach program that allows the GCSS-Army team members to give back to the community, while realizing their own personal satisfaction from helping others.





**Gary Dansberry,** logistics management specialist for Army Training Information System (ATIS), points to his name while watching the PEO EIS town hall livestream. He was recognized for 35 years of government service. (U.S. Army photo courtesy of ATIS)

**Col. Chad Harris** (left), project manager for Defensive Cyber Operations, presents the charter for Cyber Platforms and Systems to Lt. Col. Michael Lind at a ceremony July 29, 2019. (U.S. Army photo by Scott Weaver, PEO EIS)

Deputy Program Executive Officer, Brendan Burke, speaks to members of the Inspiring and Developing Excellence in Acquisition Leaders (IDEAL) cohort July 10, 2019. (U.S. Army photo by Tara Clements, PEO EIS) **Col. Chad Harris** (left), project manager for Defensive Cyber Operations, administers the oath of office for **Major Nicole Meruvia** (right), during her promotion ceremony July 8, 2019. (U.S. Army photo by Laura Edwards, PEO EIS)

Manish Patel, cyber director for PEO EIS, accepts his 30 year civilian service award from

John Spruill, business process manager for Headquarters Army Environmental System, receives his 20 Year civilian service award from Program Executive Officer, Chérie Smith, during a town hall event July 23, 2019. (U.S. Army photo by Laura Edwards, PEO EIS)

Manish Patel, cyber director for PEO EIS, accepts his 30 year civilian service award from Program Executive Officer, Chérie Smith, during a town hall event July 23, 2019. (U.S. Army photo by Laura Edwards, PEO EIS)

### **EIS SNAPS**