The project director for Enterprise Services, Thomas Neff, was promoted to the rank of Lieutenant Colonel in the U.S. Army Reserve during a ceremony hosted by Chérie Smith, the program executive officer for Enterprise Information Systems. Neff joined the Reserve after a 30-year active duty career in the Army and was surrounded by colleagues and family, including his wife, Sheila, and son, Robert, at the Aug. 3, 2018, ceremony. In his remarks, Neff thanked his family for their unwavering support throughout his career. Within the Reserve, Neff is the executive officer, Assistant Secretary of the Army for Acquisition, Logistics and Technology Army Reserve Element in Arlington, Virginia.

Neff enlisted in the Army after graduating from high school in 1982 and served four years as a Pershing missile crewmember with Alpha-Battery, Third Battalion Pershing, Ninth Field Artillery on Fort Sill, Oklahoma, earning an honorable discharge as a Sergeant. He received a Bachelor of Arts degree from Lehigh University in May 1990 with a double major in international relations and government. He went on to graduate from the Army Officer Candidate School at Fort Benning, Georgia, in February 1991 and was branched Field Artillery. During his time on active duty, Neff served as a fire direction officer, platoon leader and Battery motor officer with Bravo-Battery, 1st Battalion (Automatic), 8th Field Artillery, 25th Infantry Division Light on Schofield Barracks, Hawaii.

Upon transferring to the U.S. Army Reserve, Neff served as headquarters and headquarters company commander, Battle Projection Group, 1st Brigade, 85th Division Exercise on Fort Sheridan, Illinois. As an active Reserve officer, he also served as an assistant project manager with the Reserve Component Automation System and Joint Automatic Identification Technology at PEO EIS.

Neff’s military decorations include the Meritorious Service Medal (3rd Oak Leaf Cluster), Army Commendation Medal (1st Oak Leaf Cluster), Army Achievement Medal (9th Oak Leaf Cluster), the Parachutist Badge and the Air Assault Badge. In addition to his bachelor’s degree from Lehigh, Neff holds a Master of Education from Loyola University – Chicago and a Master of Science from Syracuse University. He graduated from the Eisenhower School, National Defense University, in 2013 earning a Master of Science in national resource strategy.

Congratulations, Lt. Col. Neff!
Lt. Gen. Paul A. Ostrowski brought his roadshow tour to Fort Belvoir, Virginia, on Aug. 17, 2018, to discuss the changes that are in progress as the new Army Futures Command (AFC) moves from its initial operational capability last month to final operational capability next summer. A confluence of events brought the AFC into being, said Ostrowski, the principal military deputy to the assistant secretary of the Army for acquisition, logistics and technology (ASA[ALT]). Those changes began with Congress pushing accountability for program management from the undersecretary of defense down to the services. Concerned that acquisition was fundamentally too slow, “Congress started to take a look at the environment that we find ourselves in today,” he said. There was agreement that the acquisition process is too slow and needed to more accurately reflect reality, explained Ostrowski, comparing the Army to the commercial marketplace and industry, “the ways that we have done business, the industrial base, the process base, the Cold War-based process — the way we acquire goods and services is no longer going to work.”

In explaining the changes that the new command brings, Ostrowski told attendees from PEO EIS and PEO Soldier that, “there will be changes at the high level…but the bottom line is, in terms of the day-in and day-out of what it is you do, there will be no change. PEO EIS is not moving from Fort Belvoir. PEO Soldier is not moving from Fort Belvoir. The jobs you’re in today will be the jobs here tomorrow and are going to be the jobs you hold in the future.” That, he said, was something he wanted people to hear from him.

The structure of AFC is based on leadership wanting to do “something revolutionary,” Ostrowski noted. “What we didn’t want to do was put Futures Command on a military installation, first and foremost. We didn’t want to do that because we wanted to make sure…that anybody that wanted to from industry could come in and see us…We wanted it to be a completely open campus.” The Army wanted the home of the new command to be a place with a high quality of life, so that talented people would volunteer to relocate. “But the main thing, though, was proximity to academia, proximity to industry, innovators,” explained Ostrowski. Earlier in August, the Army announced the choice for the new home of AFC — Austin, Texas.

Ostrowski urged anyone interested in joining the new command to compete for the opportunity. “If you want to be part of that, we need great people doing great things. Over the course of [fiscal years] ’16, ’17, ’18 and now ’19, we’ve had NDAAAs [National Defense Authorization Acts] that have been completely revolutionary with respect to what it is they’re doing to fix this thing called acquisition,” he said. “They gave the chief a ton more power and outlined his roles and responsibilities when it came to resourcing requirements. It forced him to get involved even more than he was already going to be.”

Chief of Staff of the Army, Gen. Mark A. Milley, tapped Maj. Gen. James M. Richardson to do a “really deep dive into what else the Army can do,” Ostrowski continued, and “they came up with a couple of recommendations that have affected us. One of which is this thing called the cross-functional team, the CFT.” That would be the mechanism for speeding up the slow process of developing requirements, which currently can take years. The amount of time that takes is “unacceptable, because we all know that the technology is moving too fast,” he said.

The Army has tried to develop “unobtanium” — aerospace engineering jargon from the 1950s used to describe something perfectly suited to whatever job, but completely impossible to attain — from unrealistic requirements written in a vacuum. Instead, “if you can inform that requirement up front, if you have a contracting person informing it, if you have a program manager informing it, if you have science and technology informing it, if you have logisticians informing it, if you have budgeteers informing it, you have the requirements person himself there and industry itself informing it, we would get

(continued)
Lt. Col. Christopher Center accepted the charter for ACWS on July 23, 2018. With the AFC and leadership’s six priorities, the focus of all acquisition, that’s exactly what the Army has done.

AFC came into being because there was no single command accountable for Army modernization, “So that’s what we have now. We have the Army Futures Command,” stated Ostrowski, who went on to describe the three pillars of the new command. The first is Futures and Concepts, which is charged with answering the question, “What does the unit of action look like in 2036?” The Army, he said, needs “visionaries to figure that out.” That’s because the battlefield of the future is predicted to be a very large city, because most of the population of the world will largely be in large coastal cities. Warfare will be multidomain — land, sea, air, cyber and subterranean — because most such cities would comprise all of those domains. Tasked with taking the concepts and figuring out how “to turn them into requirements with prototyping [and] experimentation” is Combat Development, the second pillar. The third, Combat Systems, is the organization charged with turning the concepts and prototypes into actual combat systems.

Changing the structure of the Army so significantly is not without difficulty, and the Army is being careful, Ostrowski continued, “because there’s this thing called Title 10.” U.S. Code Title 10 provides the legal authority for each of the services and all of the roles, responsibilities and authorities. Title 10, Ostrowski said, delineates “how the acquisition authorities flow.” That flow is from the new undersecretary of defense for acquisition and sustainment, “down to the service secretary to the service acquisition executive, who is in this case Dr. [Bruce D.] Jette, down to the PEO and down to the PM.” Title 10 also makes explicit, Ostrowski continued, “that no other entity beside the secretariat can form that group. So, what we’re going to do is carefully and cleverly determine the relationships between ASA(ALT) and AFC as we go forward.”

Ostrowski compared the creation of AFC to building an airplane in flight. He used an entirely different analogy to describe the relationship between AFC and each of the subordinates, likening it to building a park and noting that planners could either put down all the sidewalks before people visited the park, or they could wait until trails developed. “We’re doing it the second way,” he said. Between initial operating capability and final operating capability, “we will build the relationships” between AFC and the subordinates, such as those coming from ASA(ALT), Army Materiel Command and the U.S. Army Training and Doctrine Command.

During the question-and-answer period at the end of the presentation, Ostrowski said that “there will not be a scenario, in my mind, where you’d see ASA(ALT) or PEO X or PEO Y assigned to Army Futures Command.” He emphasized that point again, saying, “I don’t see us being assigned, in any way, shape or form, to the Army Futures Command,” and then added quickly, “Will we be in direct support? You betcha.”

ACWS WELCOMES NEW PRODUCT MANAGER

By Ashley Tolbert, PEO EIS Strategic Communication Division


Chérie Smith, program executive officer for Enterprise Information Systems, spoke about Wolfe’s achievements as the ACWS product manager and welcomed Center to the organization. Wolfe thanked his team for their hard work during his time at ACWS and spoke highly of their dedication and technical expertise. He also gave special recognition to his mentors and family for their unwavering support and guidance, while incoming ACWS product manager Center expressed his thanks and enthusiasm for his upcoming role.

Welcome to the PEO EIS team, Lt. Col. Center!
Col. Robert “RJ” Mikesh, project manager (PM), Army Enterprise Systems Integration Program (AESIP), conducted an all-hands meeting for the AESIP workforce on Aug. 15, 2018. His opening remarks reflected on AESIP’s accomplishments during his first year in command and reminded the audience that there is still much work to do in this changing acquisition environment.

One of the most significant events this year was successfully speeding up the schedule to deliver Global Combat Support Systems – Army Increment II by two years. Another noteworthy event was the receipt of an urgent call through Transportation Coordinators’ – Automated Information for Movement System II from U.S. Army North requesting 1,000 active radio frequency identification (RFID) tags to support redeploying units from Puerto Rico during recovery from hurricane Maria. AESIP’s Automated Movement and Identification Solutions program quickly responded and provided Soldiers the requested tags within a few days. “I am always amazed at how quick we are able to react to the demands of our Soldiers,” Mikesh stated. “I am truly humbled by the knowledge and dedication of this organization.”

In order to ensure AESIP is set-up for continued success, Mikesh presented the charter to the new AESIP Hub product lead Nancy Richardson. He noted that by adding a product lead to assume cost, schedule and performance management responsibilities, it will be treated more like a distinct program of record as AESIP continues its enterprise integration efforts. He also thanked Dr. Daniel Parker for his leadership of the AESIP Hub to date, noting that Parker will continue to serve as the lead enterprise architect and chief information officer for AESIP.

Towards the end of the ceremony, Mikesh presented several awards to note the length of government service and exemplary performance of some members of the workforce. Additional topics covered included PEO EIS and AESIP priorities, the importance of strategic messaging in clear concise language, organizational hails and farewells and upcoming key events for the next quarter. The next AESIP all-hands meeting is scheduled for November 2018.
GFEBS, AMS2 IS BUILDING TRUST, TRANSPARENCY AND TEAMWORK WITH NEW LEADER

BY JENNIFER SEVIER, GFEBS

Col. Donald Burton, project manager for General Fund Enterprise Business System (GFEBS), hosted an assumption of charter ceremony for Acquisition Management Support Systems (AMS2) at the Hyatt Regency Crystal City in Arlington, Virginia, on Aug. 27, 2018. Lt. Col. Christine Youngquist formally assumed her responsibilities as the incoming product manager stating, “I am looking forward to delivering innovative and adaptive solutions that enable efficient and affordable Army acquisitions.” AMS2 is fulfilling the Assistant Secretary of the Army, Acquisition, Logistics and Technology’s mission by providing solutions that allow for programmatic baseline management, tracking material release activities, supporting congressional budgetary decisions activities and tracking Clinger-Cohen Act compliance for acquisitions programs.

Youngquist has an extensive background in acquisition and information technology. She served as deputy product manager for the National Reconnaissance Office and as the former deputy director of the Mission Command Test Directorate for Electronic Proving Ground, a major range and test facility in Fort Huachuca, Arizona. Her invaluable experience in acquisition is a great asset to the GFEBS team. “With so much potential, it was obvious that she could manage more than AMS2,” Burton said. She will now lead AMS2 as the product manager and General Fund Enterprise Business System – Sensitive Activities as the acting product manager. Youngquist looks forward to delivering acquisition excellence and building a high performance organization.

Welcome, Lt. Col. Youngquist!

Col. Burton, left, presented Lt. Col. Youngquist, right, with the charter for AMS2 during the Aug. 27, 2018, ceremony. (U.S. Army photo by Racquel Lockett-Finch, PEO EIS Strategic Communication Division)

Sunday, September 30th, 2018

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To learn more about the symbols of honor that Gold Star Mothers and Families wear, visit SymbolsOfHonor.org
AMIS DEPLOYS UPDATE TO TC-AIMS II
BY DAVID ROGERS, AMIS

Planning and managing convoy movements has become easier and cheaper for the Army to execute with the latest update to the Transportation Coordinators’ Automated Information for Movements System II (TC-AIMS II) deployed by Automated Movement and Identification Solutions (AMIS). TC-AIMS II is an enterprise level software platform that allows users to plan and manage the inventory and transportation of unit personnel and equipment assets on a global scale. The update, TC-AIMS II v.8.0.0, fulfills a two-year effort undertaken by AMIS and will improve the systems usability, enhance performance and comply with cyber security policies/directives focusing on convoy planning and highway regulation (CPHR) functionality. CPHR specifically allows users to plan and manage convoy movements on public roadways minimizing the impact on civilian traffic and infrastructure.

Additional highlights and improvements include updated maps, improved road network data, a decrease in map load times — which dropped from six minutes to less than one minute, a streamlined and user-friendly interface and an anticipated 13 percent reduction in trouble tickets. AMIS also projects a cost savings of over $500 thousand per year by eliminating nine servers along with outdated mapping technology. The success of the project is due to the hard work of the AMIS team along with several geographically dispersed project stakeholders, including Systems Simulation, Software and Integration Directorate at the U.S. Army Aviation and Missile Research Development and Engineering Center in Huntsville, Alabama; Transportation Geospatial Information System at the U.S. Transportation Command on Scott Air Force Base, Illinois; and the Pacific Northwest National Laboratory in Richland, Washington.

SEPT 3
Labor Day

SEPT 11
Patriot Day

SEPT 26
AFCEA Belvoir Luncheon
Fort Belvoir Officers Club

SEPT 27
Retirement Ceremony for Dennis Kelly
Fort Belvoir Officers Club

SEPT 30
Gold Star Mothers and Families Day

UPCOMING EVENTS

SEPTEMBER 2018

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CHESS PROVIDES TRAINING TO THE NAVY

BY TRICIA SHELLEY, CHESS

Computer Hardware Enterprise Software and Solutions (CHESS) traveled to Naval Base Point Loma in San Diego, California, on July 11, 2018, to provide training to the Department of the Navy as part of their category management – mandatory and other solutions training. The training was in support of the Navy’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 Office of Management and Budget’s (OMB) Passback requirement. The three-day event focused on different segments of the acquisition community; category management and professional services solutions, information technology solutions and tools.

Stacy Watson, enterprise service division director at CHESS, 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’ compliancy with OMB’s category management and strategic sourcing, the CHESS contract vehicles, request for tools and the consolidated buy program.

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

Department of the Navy Contracting specialists, contracting officers and strategic sourcing program management office employees attended CHESS training in July 2018. (U.S. Army photo by Tricia Shelley, CHESS)
Installation Information Infrastructure Modernization Program (I3MP) served as the program management office for the recently completed modernization project of the mission command center infrastructure at the 82nd Airborne Division Headquarters, on Fort Bragg, North Carolina. In partnership with the U.S. Army Information Systems Engineering Command, Tobyhanna Army Depot and an industry integrator, I3MP modernized the outside plant infrastructure and Gigabit Ethernet data networks as part of its ongoing home station mission command center modernization efforts. The 82nd Airborne Division Headquarters hosts an operations center for command and administrative operations and was the fifth, and largest, mission command center modernization project at an Army division headquarters as the Army continues to leap towards next-generation command centers.

In addition to I3MP’s efforts, the modernization project consisted of replacing aging, worn-out equipment in the operations center with state-of-the-art network software and hardware, which underpin the Army’s lethality and enables a culture of decentralized execution on the battlefield. The improved mission command capabilities are critical to outmaneuvering sophisticated adversaries, as mission success depends on coordinated communications to ensure the right level of combat power is at the right place, at the right time.

I3MP product officer Toni Freeland managed the project’s day-to-day activities assisted by colleagues Andi Fehl, project team assist lead, and Christopher Chavez, project team assist. “The Army is changing how it fields and sustains mission command systems,” said Freeland. “Employing the Army’s new acquisition construct of ‘adapt and buy,’ this project simplifies mission command network software and hardware versions across the Army to one standard baseline that can be upgraded to the latest hardware every five to 10 years.”

The project’s information technology specialist, Mark Block, who served in the 82nd, explains that the new infrastructure includes bigger data pipes and a flatter, centralized network for improved cybersecurity. According to Block, “Bandwidth within a command center is a precious resource. The mission command center infrastructure provides the high-capacity throughput to enable the transmission of voice, video and data with minimum delay.”

Mission command from home station is a new capability the Army is deploying, and it delivers a more powerful and reliable capability than those of any opposing force to date. This significant technical overhaul improves the headquarters command and control of Soldiers’ missions through a simple and intuitive single mission command suite that can be accessed from the home station, en route or a command post.

You can view a video about the 82nd Airborne Division Headquarters home station mission command center modernization at: https://youtu.be/hFi8UnbbA20.
Personnel from PEO EIS recently traveled to Augusta, Georgia, to take part in AFCEA’s annual TechNet conference. Acting deputy program executive officer for Enterprise Information Systems, Brendan Burke, provided a keynote address during the conference giving an overview of PEO EIS and how the organization is supporting the Army’s modernization efforts, ERP integration, network challenges and the goal of a flatter, faster and more mobile network.

From Computer Hardware, Enterprise Software and Solutions (CHESS), Stacy Watson, enterprise solutions division director; Ylander Jones, hardware and services lead; and Tricia Shelley, training and outreach specialist, met face-to-face with conference attendees on the exhibit floor via the CHESS booth. The team spoke with Soldiers, senior military and industry leaders and briefed them on CHESS and their mission. The exhibit gave the CHESS team an opportunity to speak directly with customers and introduce the program to new users, which resulted in an increase in registered new users to the CHESS IT e-mart as well as a surge in requests for additional CHESS training events.

John Price, deputy project officer for Army Enterprise Service Desk (AESD) at Enterprise Computing, and Lt. Col. Verdar Ashford, project officer for AESD, also attended TechNet to participate in two workshop sessions, AESD Federation and AESD-Worldwide Transition and Way Forward. During the workshops, Price and Ashford prepared and educated attendees on the AESD transition, which will impact over 1.6 million DOD Enterprise Email and AKO users worldwide, and discussed the AESD concept, governance, implementation and strategies to implement a single enterprise service desk.
In August, Ylander Jones, left, hardware service lead, and Stacy Watson, right, enterprise solutions division director, traveled to Augusta, Georgia, to present CHESS on the conference exhibit floor at TechNet Augusta.

PEO EIS personnel gathered together for the organization’s first-ever “ERP Day” to hear from senior leaders, including Chérie Smith, as they discuss the challenges, current status and future direction of PEO EIS’ Enterprise Resource Planning Systems.

Chérie Smith presents Larry Skinner, sales and distribution functional team lead at the Logistics Modernization Program (LMP), with a PEO EIS coin, marking the end of his 34 years of government service, most of which was spent working at LMP. Smith visited the LMP product management office on Aug. 29, 2018, at its headquarters at Picatinny Arsenal, New Jersey, to meet and learn about the LMP team.

Chérie Smith shares a laugh over Army vs. Marines with John Galvin, a government support contractor for LMP who also served in the Marine Corps for four years.

Smith visits with Tessy Joseph, maintenance functional team lead at LMP, during her office call at Picatinny Arsenal.

Tony Kendrick received the Achievement Medal for Civilian Service on Aug. 8, 2018 in recognition of his 20 plus years with organization. Lawrence Silas presented Kendrick with the award.

Photo credits: Christine Irving, LMP; Tricia Shelley, CHESS; Racquel Lockett-Finch, PEO EIS Strategic Communication Division; Tara Clements, PEO EIS Strategic Communication Division.
All Saints Ball

Share an evening of tradition and celebration recognizing workforce accomplishments and the history and contributions of each U.S. Army Branch.

Featuring Guest Speaker:
SMA Raymond F. Chandler, USA, Ret.
The 14th Sergeant Major of the Army

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