

HISPANIC HERITAGE MONTH SPOTLIGHT

Mr. Hector J. Acosta

TITLE: Deputy Director, Lifecycle Management Division, IPPS-A

TOTAL YEARS OF ARMY SERVICE: 25 years

HOW LONG AT PEO EIS: Four years (2004-2007; 2015-Present)

AWARDS / EDUCATION / OTHER ACHIEVEMENTS TO NOTE: M.A. Computer Resources and Information Management, Webster University; B.S. Computer Science, University of Puerto Rico. Level III Certified in Program Management, Test & Evaluation, and Information Technology.



1. WHAT DO YOU DO AND WHY IS IT IMPORTANT TO THE SOLDIER?

As the Deputy Director for the Lifecycle Management Division (LMD), I assist the Director in managing the development, implementation, execution, and reporting of all lifecycle activities for the Integrated Personnel and Pay System – Army (IPPS-A). This includes providing guidance and direction to a team of outstanding government, military, and contractors who support LMD functions across the program. This is very important to the Soldier, because we are responsible for translating the Soldiers' operational needs into system specifications, which helps build the foundation of IPPS-A. We then verify that the systems integrator builds the system in accordance with those specifications. Lastly, we validate the system meets the operational requirements of the user before it is fielded to the force so the Soldier receives a fully functional integrated personnel and pay system that is secure, adaptable, easy to use, reliable, effective, auditable, and well trained.

2. DESCRIBE HOW AND WHEN YOU CAME TO WORK AT PEO EIS.

I started my journey with PEO EIS in 2004 when I joined the Army Human Resource System (AHRSS) team as a young Major. During my initial tenure in PEO EIS, I had the opportunity to work in two other programs, Defense Wide Transmission Systems (DWTS) and Biometrics. Other than being in command, being part of the PEO EIS team has been one of the most rewarding experiences in my 25 years of military service. I was extremely fortunate of having the opportunity to return to PEO EIS after I retired from the military and not only work with a first class team like IPPS-A, but also to be a part of history as we build the largest personnel and pay Enterprise Resource Planning system in the world.

3. WHO ARE YOUR ROLE MODELS?

I have had the opportunity to work with great leaders throughout my military career, but at the end of the day, my true role models are my parents. For the way they raised me and my sister, for their unconditional love and support throughout every endeavor that I have chosen to follow, for the selfless sacrifices that they have made to make sure that everyone in the family had a better life than them, and for the mark that they have left on us and their grandchildren.

4. WHAT IS YOUR FAVORITE CULTURAL TRADITION?

My favorite tradition would be getting together with family and friends during Christmas, singing Christmas carols (Arguinaldos), eating typical Puerto Rican food (Comida Criolla), and playing dominos.

5. ADVICE TO THE NEXT GENERATION?

Take responsibility for your actions and make sure that you leave a positive mark everywhere you go. It doesn't matter if it is at school, sports, family, or work. These are the marks that you will leave behind long after you are gone. Make them count.