





# COMMUNICATOR



### **NEW PRODUCT DIRECTOR AT ENTERPRISE SERVICES**

By Communications Division, PEO EIS

On May 13, Mr. Thomas Neff was introduced as the new project director (PD) for Enterprise Services (ES) during a ceremony hosted by acting PEO EIS, Ms. Terry Watson, on Fort Belvoir, Virginia. Mr. Neff takes over from the acting PD, Mr. Doug Haskin. As PD, Mr. Neff will manage the team responsible for acquiring, fielding and performing life cycle sustainment of technology and services supporting many of the Army Chief Information Officer's largest enterprise initiatives. He will lead a staff of over 300 government and contractor personnel across five product offices.

Mr. Neff most recently served as the product lead for Computer Hardware, Enterprise Software and Solutions (CHESS). While at CHESS, Mr. Neff managed a contract portfolio



(I to r) Mr. Haskin, Ms. Watson and Mr. Neff at the Change of Charter ceremony.

that exceeded a total value of over \$30 billion. His U.S. Army career spans over 30 years, with service both in uniform and as a civilian. In addition to his duties at PEO EIS, Mr. Neff is assigned to the ASA(ALT) Army Reserve Element. He is a 2013 graduate of the Senior Acquisition Course at the Eisenhower School, National Defense University (NDU), is a member of the Army Acquisition Corps, Level III certified in Program Management and Information Technology and holds the Federal CIO and CISO certificates from NDU. "Tom did great things in his time at CHESS," said Ms. Watson in her remarks at the ceremony. "His sense of leadership is incredible and he has a great relationship with everyone."

Mr. Haskin resumes his role as deputy product director at ES, after 10 months as the acting PD. Mr. Haskin has been the deptuty since November 2012 and holds Level 3 DAWIA certifications in Life Cycle Logistics and Program Management. In August 2010, he received the Federal Computer Week Rising Star Award and, in November 2012, received the Commander's Award for Civilian Service.





Ms. Watson and Mr. Haskin

Ms. Watson and Mr. Neff.

#### DCATS AIDS NASA WITH PROJECT KABOOM

By Mr. Anthony Castranova, Telecommunications Management Specialist, WESS

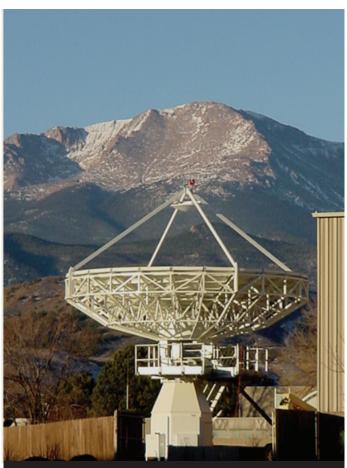
On Feb.15, 2013, an asteroid estimated to be have been only 55 feet in diameter plunged into Earth's atmosphere at many times the speed of sound. Friction with the air soon heated the falling rock until it became white hot and finally exploded over Chelyabinsk, Russia, shattering windows and damaging buildings. More than 1,500 people were injured by the blast. Luckily, the Chelyabinsk asteroid exploded in the air rather than crashing into the ground the impact of a rocky asteroid the size of a shopping mall could easily raise a dust cloud that would block out the sun for decades, causing an unending winter and possibly wiping out all life on Earth.

Asteroids consisting of rock, iron and ice are constantly traveling through space, and many of them cross the Earth's orbit every week. Some of these asteroids are no larger than a grain of sand while others are miles long. A collision with larger asteroids could spell doom for the planet, so, to counter this threat, the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) is developing a network of Ka-band radar antennas that will scan space for objects on a collision course with Earth to provide sufficient warning for NASA to take defensive action. The extremely high radio frequencies used by the Ka-band will allow NASA observers to determine the size, direction, speed and, in some cases, the composition of the approaching object. NASA has dubbed this project Ka-band Object Observation and Monitoring (KaBOOM).

To aid in their effort, NASA contacted Defense Communications and Transmission System (DCATS) requesting two surplus Ka-band satellite earth terminals. NASA will use the antennas for feasibility testing and, eventually, to provide initial space observation and monitoring capabilities. The surplus antennas are part of DCATS' Ka-band Satellite Transmit and Receive System (KaSTARS) program, which provides enterpriselevel satellite communications services for DOD users world-wide. Since KaSTARS is being replaced by a new DCATS program, the Modernized Enterprise Terminal, the KaSTARS terminals are no longer needed. Transferring these terminals to NASA will save the Army the expenses of storing and eventually disposing of the surplus equipment.

NASA plans to ship the terminals to the Kennedy Space Center in Titusville, Florida, for assembly and testing. Once operational, the KaSTARS antennas will become the initial project KaBOOM antennas, scanning the sky for threats from outer space.

Transferring the surplus KaSTARS terminals to NASA will provide project KaBOOM, which is in the early stages of development, with valuable equipment for the proof of concept, initial testing and startup phases at little cost. NASA, the Army and the entire planet will benefit from this equipment repurpose as NASA develops a radar system that will alert them of potential life-ending cosmic threats.



A KaSTARS earth terminal under test.

#### **DENNIS KELLY TAKES OVER AS PL** FOR ENTERPRISE COMPUTING

By ES Communications and Public Affairs Office



On May 13, Mr. Dennis Kelly was introduced as the product lead (PL) for Enterprise Computing (EC) during a change of charter ceremony held on Fort Belvoir, Virginia, hosted by Mr. Doug Haskin, acting product director for Enterprise

Services. Mr. Kelly takes over for the departing acting PL, Mr. Keith Baylor, who will continue to support EC as the deputy PL. As head of EC, Mr. Kelly will provide future-focused solutions that modernize and optimize information enterprise technology activities through cost effective and policy-compliant delivery of cuttingedge infrastructure and services. "I appreciate the opportunity to work with



Mr. Kelly previously served within EC as the project officer building the capabilities of the Army Enterprise Service Desk - Worldwide (AESD-W), and facilitating the use of the Army Private Cloud (APC2) contract. In leading AESD-W,

> Mr. Kelly managed three service desk locations that provided support to the 44 installations of the 7th Signal Command and to the 1.5 million users of Army Knowledge Online and Enterprise Email. For APC2, he facilitated the provision of cloud software as a service and infrastructure as a service for DOD customers. "Dennis has a great set of technical and management skills

the excellent EC team built by my predecessors. As a team, EC will maintain a focus on support to the warfighter as we assist in fielding the technologies needed to meet the Army's increasingly challenging operational and fiscal environment," said Mr. Kelly.

and over 40 years of leadership experience. I can say with confidence that he'll thrive as product lead," said Mr. Doug Haskin, project director, ES. "As a leader, he's known for being a change agent, with an ability to communicate complex concepts clearly, and one who achieves results. His expertise will aid EC in delivering on its mission."

### FORT RUCKER IT MODERNIZATION EFFORTS

By Mr. Timothy Faust, Acquisition Management Specialist, I3MP

Installation Information Infrastructure Modernization Program (I3MP) and Army Contracting Command – Rock Island awarded a 12-month undefinitized contract action to EPS Corporation in March. The contractor is tasked with modernizing the outside plant and communications facilities at Fort Rucker, Alabama. Fort Rucker is home to the U.S. Army Aviation Center of Excellence, which trains, educates and develops Army aviation professionals and integrates indispensable aviation capabilities across warfighting functions in support of commanders and Soldiers on the ground. Fort Rucker is also home to several tenant units covering the full spectrum of Army aviation.

The expansion and modernization of the outside plant will provide foundational infrastructure with the required redundancy, diversification, capacity and survivability that meet the Defense Information Systems Network and Installation Campus Area Network Design & Implementation architecture. The expansion and modernization will also enable future success in subsequent projects such as Network Modernization – Continental United States.

I3MP, EPS and Fort Rucker stakeholders participated in a requirements validation brief to familiarize the team with



the site and work required for the mission. The team also conducted site specific inspections of the outside plant locations and shelters. Project completion is scheduled for third quarter fiscal year 2017 in support of Fort Rucker's migration to the Defense Information System Agency's Joint Regional Security Stack (JRSS) capability. JRSS is a suite of equipment that performs firewall functions, intrusion detection and prevention, enterprise management, virtual routing and forwarding and provides a host of network security capabilities.

JUNE 2016						
SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THUR	FRI	SAT
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12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30		

#### **EVENTS**

8 JUNE Acquire Conference & Expo Washington, DC

ICEAA Professional Development & Training Workshop Atlanta, GA

14 JUNE Army Birthday

24 JUNE Org Day

## RCAS OFFERS NEW TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES ON FORT BELVOIR

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By Mr. Robert Medley, Director of Training, RCAS



RCAS Director of Training, Mr. Robert G. Medley, (r) and RTI Site Facilitator, SGT Kenneth R. Larigey III, (l), standing outside the RTI facility. Photo Credit: Ms. Catherine Kent, RCAS Training Manager.

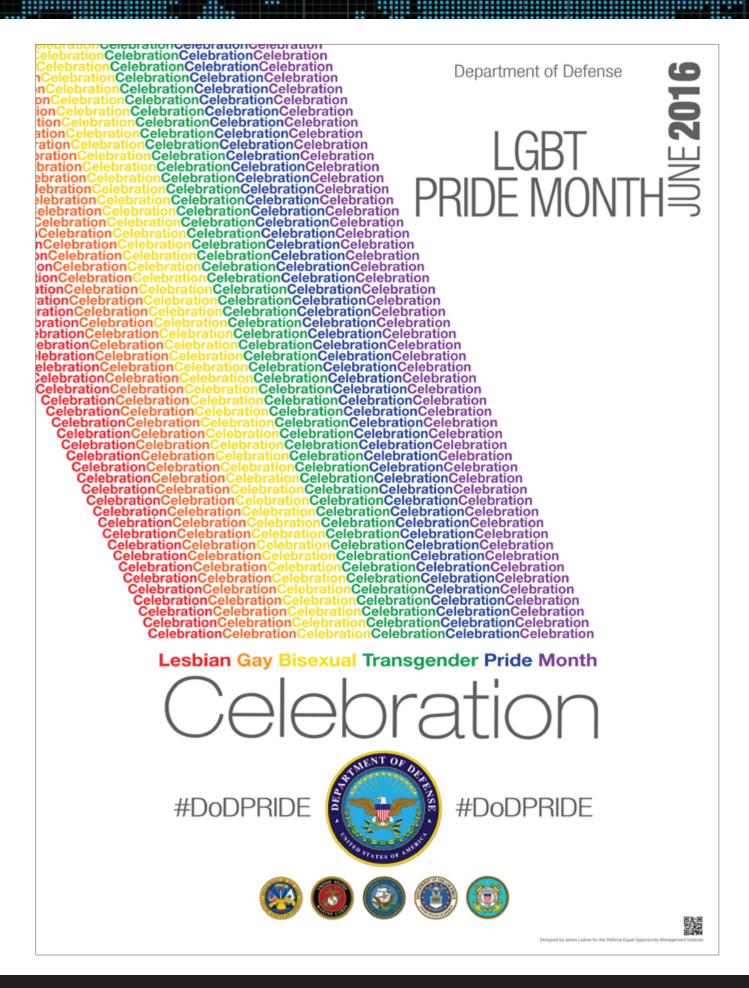
The Reserve Component Automation Systems (RCAS) Training Team now offers application training on the Unit Personnel System/Command Management System and Military Personnel Office Orders at the Army National Guard 260th Regional Training Institute (RTI) on Fort Belvoir, Virginia. Earlier this year, the RCAS Training Team explored several options for classrooms and lodging on-post at Fort Belvoir before finally settling

on the RTI. This facility has multiple classrooms, a 107-seat auditorium, dining facility, gym, laundry room and barracks for 110 soldiers. The dining facility doubles as a multi-purpose room and can be configured for training. There is one large classroom that seats 30 students, two smaller classrooms that seat over 15 students each and a breakout room that can be configured as a classroom. Additionally, there is a room set aside exclusively for instructor use.

In April, the team made a second trip with members of the RCAS Distributed Learning Program staff to determine the viability of setting up rooms using Mobile Distributed Learning Classroom equipment. This would enable RCAS to host simultaneous live and video teletraining events in the RTI facility. After successful pilot tests on May 4th and 5th with the National Guard Professional Education Center in North Little Rock, Arkansas, and the Army National Guard facility in Laurel, Maryland, RCAS is currently working through the final technical details of launching the teletraining capability. In the future, the team plans to expand the class offerings to additional RCAS applications.

To find out more contact Mr. Bob Medley, RCAS Training Director at 703-806-3163, or by email at <u>Robert.G.Medley.</u> <u>civ@mail.mil</u>.





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### ENHANCING EFFICIENCIES THROUGH COLLABORATION

By Ms. Rosalie Fehrmann, Strategic Communications Specialist, P2E



Army Contracting Command – Rock Island (ACC-RI) recently visited Power Projection Enablers (P2E) to participate in a contracting processes interchange. Topics discussed during the meeting were P2E's processes for developing the Acquisition Requirements Package (ARP) and the ACC-RI processes, starting from receiving the ARP through awarding the contract. The opportunity gave the ACC-RI and P2E teams a chance to review the complex acquisition process and required steps to get a well-defined requirement to a contract award. Both P2E and ACC-RI agreed the meeting helped facilitate an understanding of the processes, manage expectations, ensure a collaborative work environment and build trust between the teams.

The ACC-RI team came away from the discussions with a heightened sense of partnership with the P2E team. Mr. Justin Trine, IT Branch C chief at ACC-RI, stated, "The benefit of setting aside a day or two for training and collaboration is that it allows

the teams to step away from the normal short and quick day-to-day exchanges to a couple of days that fosters and allows a dynamic and productive conversation amongst the teams. I believe that the productivity will be further realized as the teams continue to build cohesion amongst each other." Echoing his statement was Mr. Jorge Caballero, acting acquisitions director at P2E, who stated, "Under my tenure, I believe there is a great relationship of mutual respect between ACC-RI and P2E." Having the opportunity to participate in informal, collaborative training sessions will help the teams become more effective and efficient throughout the acquisition process, aligning with P2E's goal of supporting the Soldier.



