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U.S. ARMY PEO ENTERPRISE INFORMATION SYSTEMS

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GCSS-ARMY

WINS 2015 GCN AWARD FOR IT EXCELLENCE

By Mr. Jon Walman, PEO EIS Communications

Congratulations to Global Combat Support System – Army (GCSS-Army) for being named **one of the top ten IT projects by Government Computer News (GCN)**. The 2015 GCN Awards for IT excellence honor outstanding IT achievement in the government technology community and the work of project teams leading innovation and truly making a difference.

Selected from over 130 nominations, GCSS-Army was recognized for providing a single view of the entire logistics posture of Army units available anywhere, anytime. GCSS-Army is the largest logistics enterprise resource planning deployment in Army history and offers a go-to platform for all logistical supply, tactical and financial systems. GCSS-Army brings better awareness, tracking and accountability to more than 154,000 Army users globally and is a critical component of the Army's ability to be audit ready by 2017.

Power Projection Enablers (P2E) received an Honorable Mention for their communications facility for Southwest Asia Theater, a state-of-the-art \$50 million, 20,000 square foot communications hub in Kuwait that provides improved command, control and communications across 20 countries in Southwest Asia.

The recognition of the GCSS-Army and P2E teams illustrates their outstanding work, creativity and commitment to the mission. Their efforts support every Soldier, every day and truly connect the global Army. Additional information about this year's GCN Awards can be found [HERE](#).



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PEO EIS MILITARY DEPUTY **COL DARRELL BENNIS RETIRES**

By Ms. Ellyn Kocher, PEO EIS Public Affairs

PEO EIS Military Deputy **COL Darrell Bennis** retired from Active Duty in the U.S. Army Reserve after 27 years of service in a ceremony held at Fort Belvoir, Virginia, on July 10. More than 30 close colleagues and friends gathered with his family to honor the colonel, who has been the military deputy (MILDEP) for PEO EIS since July 2013.

As MILDEP, **COL Bennis led the important mission of liaison between the PEO's military and civilian personnel**, providing guidance for all military-specific policies and procedures and connecting with Soldiers to ensure their success.

"In all of his roles, Darrell has demonstrated tenacity and skill in getting the right equipment, services and training for our Soldiers, and a lifetime commitment to the mission," said **Mr. Doug Wiltsie**, PEO EIS. "He dedicated himself to the mission of preparing our next generation of leaders to meet evolving challenges head on and implement creative solutions to really hard problems."

COL Bennis retires as a decorated Army officer with numerous commendations and awards, including five Meritorious Service Medals, two Army Commendation Medals and three Army Achievement Medals, as well as certification as a Level III Program Management and Information Technology Army Acquisition Officer. During the ceremony, he was presented with the **Legion of Merit award**, a PEO star note with the framed Lone Soldier portrait, letters from Virginia Senators **Tim Kaine** and **Mark Warner** and a U.S. flag flown over the Pentagon June 14 in honor of his service.

"COL Bennis's wide breadth of previous experience prepared him to be an outstanding MILDEP here at EIS, and he will be missed," concluded Mr. Wiltsie.

COL Sandy Vann-Olejasz has been named as the new PEO EIS MILDEP after previously serving as the project manager for DOD Biometrics.

Thank you for your service, COL Bennis, and enjoy your retirement!



Mr. Douglas Wiltsie and COL Bennis



Mr. Wiltsie and Ms. Bennis



LTC Timothy McGrew



COL Bennis and family

Photos by Ms. Sam Soleimanifar

MR. BEZWADA SPEAKS AT ARMY NETMOD CONFERENCE

By Mr. David Wood, PEO EIS Communications

PEO EIS Chief Information Officer (CIO) **Mr. Hari Bezwada** delivered remarks on Army network modernization at Washington Technology's DOD Industry Day on July 23 in Falls Church, Virginia.

Mr. Bezwada provided an overview of the current threats to the network that have informed DoD's network priorities. Chief among these is to ensure complete operational awareness across the network to identify threats and provide cyber defenses. The joint regional security stacks that are currently being fielded help achieve this vision by replacing thousands of individual installation firewalls with a handful of robust, standard security stacks.

Mr. Bezwada also discussed the Army's network modernization efforts to increase network capacity, enhance network security, utilize cloud-based enterprise service, standardize network operations, employ application security and leverage big data analytics. He specifically emphasized how all efforts rely on increasing capacity. "If we take bandwidth out of the picture, then innovation is unlimited," said Mr. Bezwada.



Addressing DOD's move towards the joint information environment, Mr. Bezwada reminded the audience that the department has done this before. "We've been doing this for a decade in the Pentagon where 14 services and agencies work together on a common network," said Mr. Bezwada. "The joint environment only works if all the services and agencies come together to make things happen."

Mr. Bezwada also **provided insight into the Army's data strategy concept, which includes moving simple user data, like documents and PDFs to commercial cloud services.** Currently, this type of data comprises about 80 percent of the Army's total storage.

The DOD-wide event also included presentations from Mr. David Cotton, DOD deputy CIO for Information Enterprise, and Mr. Jessie Showers, DISA's infrastructure executive.

ALTESS ADDS AGILE DATA STORAGE SOLUTION TO ITS PORTFOLIO

By the ALTESS Communications Team

Acquisition, Logistics, and Technology Enterprise Services and Systems (ALTESS) has virtualized all of its block storage resources by leveraging software-defined storage (SDS). **Data storage services are now available through a more agile solution**, using SDS to control product lifecycle, customer compatibility and cost.

“This system also allows ALTESS the flexibility to migrate data transparently to meet different levels of performance based on projected workloads, unexpected changes in activity and customer application needs,” said **Mr. Cam Coble**, ALTESS team lead for storage services.

Traditionally, enterprise block storage services have been centralized around multiple data storage devices that deliver data through a Fibre Channel switched environment. Data growth and lifecycle replacements often resulted in storage migration efforts, requiring service interruptions and long hours for system administrators. Acquiring storage devices also required brand-name justification.

“SDS allows ALTESS to connect multiple vendor storage systems with best-practice configurations providing enhanced performance on a per-system configuration,” said **Mr. Richard Eva**, ALTESS product director. “Integrating these storage systems to a central point allows for a single portal of management for storage administrators.”

Now, newer storage devices can be seamlessly integrated into the existing infrastructure with no down-time. The new delivery option enhances opportunities for customers based on technical and budgetary needs. Furthermore, special features have been moved to the SDS solution, allowing snapshots, mirroring, and replication of data to be performed across different storage devices regardless of vendor.



ALTESS provides life cycle IT solutions, support and services to its customers in secure environments.

NATIONAL HISPANIC HERITAGE MONTH
HISPANIC AMERICANS: ENERGIZING OUR NATION'S DIVERSITY



ALTESS AND EC2M PARTNER TO RELOCATE SINGLE SIGN ON CAPABILITY

By EC2M Communications Team

As of July 2015, Enterprise Content Collaboration and Messaging (EC2M) and Acquisition, Logistics, and Technology Enterprise System and Services (ALTESS) have **completed the relocation of the Army Knowledge Online (AKO) Disaster Recovery (DR) instance of the Army's Single Sign On (SSO) and Identity Management (IdAM).**

After many months of coordination, EC2M and ALTESS finalized the extensive 18-month effort to re-engineer, integrate and relocate the service from the AKO data center to ALTESS. The teams were also able to complete the transition with no impact on Army users, which was vital as the SSO capability is used by 1.9 million Army and DOD users and, on a daily basis, it averages one million authentications and more than 200 million authorizations.

Moving the SSO DR instance nearly 300 miles to ALTESS, while keeping it at the highest levels of availability, required extensive planning, engineering, testing and teamwork between EC2M and ALTESS. **The effort was critical to EC2M's ability to move out of the costly and maintenance-intensive AKO DR site.**

With assistance from ALTESS, AKO engineers designed and deployed a "mini portal" to operate IdAM services at ALTESS. Hundreds of lines of custom code were translated and the architecture of the physical environment was updated to function virtually. **Teams for EC2M and ALTESS worked together to remotely configure every application to function in the new environment** and overcame significant technical and operational challenges to bring the project to full operational capability while "live and in flight" — efforts that will save significant future technical refresh costs.



On June 25, team members from ALTESS and EC2M gathered at the ALTESS data center to finalize the movement of the AKO Disaster Recovery instance of Single Sign On to ALTESS.

Pictured from left to right are:

(Front Row) Stephanie Buchner, Linda Milks, Steve Evans, Brent Bachorik, Ed Summers, Liz Sims, Bob Clarke, Tom Cajohn, Jim Barrigan

(Back Row) Reggie Walker, Dale Leeson, Shannon Hagan

DWTS

PARTICIPATES IN NETWORK INTEGRATION EVALUATION 15.2

By MAJ Jonathan W. Judy, Assistant Product Manager, CAISI/VSAT

A Defense-Wide Transmission Systems (DWTS) team, both program office personnel and Information Systems Engineering Command (ISEC) engineers, participated in the **Network Integration Evaluation (NIE) 15.2 from April 20–25** for the purpose of installing, demonstrating and supporting two potential Combat Service Support Automated Information Systems Interface (CAISI) “concept” software support tools to the S-4 Sustainment Automation Support Management Office (SASMO), 2nd Brigade, 1st Armored Division.

The two software tools, **“What’s On CAISI?” and a remote management software, were utilized throughout the NIE 15.2 field exercise.** “What’s On CAISI?” is government-developed software that monitors each CAISI wireless network enclave for attached devices and each combat service support (CSS) very small aperture terminal (VSAT) satellite terminal and provides near real-time status of availability to a remote central location. The remote management software is a commercially available product that allows the SASMO staff to remotely control, administer, push files and troubleshoot user computers running “What’s On CAISI?”

During NIE 15.2, **the DWTS team traveled with SASMO staff to each VSAT location where they installed the two concept software tools** and ensured they were functioning properly. Associated company size units “jumped” to new locations, simulating deployed operations across the ten VSAT locations scattered across the east training range at Fort Bliss, Texas, and the southern White Sands missile range in New Mexico. After completing the installations, team members continued to support to the SASMO staff by providing training on the new software tools, as well as setting up or troubleshooting unit problems with their CAISI and CSS VSAT equipment.

When asked about the team’s efforts in NIE 15.2, **DWTS Product Director LTC Jeff Etienne**, stated, “DWTS prides itself in supporting the Soldiers by actively engaging in making sure the CSS VSAT and CAISI [equipment] are operationally ready and available prior to and during the NIE events. DWTS is always there when there is a worldwide need for connecting the logistician.”



SFC Michael B. Boone



(L-R) ISEC Engineer Rodney A. Harp, unknown Soldier, SFC Michael B. Boone

Initial feedback from the SASMO staff on both software tools was positive and “What’s On CAISI?” was specifically commended as being user-friendly and having great potential benefit for the Army. **SASMO staff noted the emerging importance of remote management software**, as it enables teams to troubleshoot devices without having to physically travel to their location — a potentially life-saving benefit.

In the meantime, DWTS and the ISEC engineers will continue to make improvements to “What’s on CAISI?” and explore the potential for a remote management software. Ideally, these advancements will become part of the CAISI Baseline in the near future.

ENTERPRISE COMPUTING HOLDS INDUSTRY DAY ON ARMY CLOUD HOSTING

By EC Communications Team

Photos by Ms. Sam Soleimanifar

On July 29, Enterprise Computing (EC) hosted 129 industry and government representatives at an Army Cloud Hosting Contract Vehicle (CHCV) Industry Day at Fort Belvoir, Virginia.

Government representatives from the offices of the DOD Chief Information Officer (CIO), Army CIO G6, Army Contracting Command – Rock Island and PEO EIS participated in a technical information exchange with industry representatives from some of the country’s leading cloud service providers. The event was held to determine marketplace interest in Army cloud service opportunities, to share the Army’s notional contracting strategy for cloud services and to present a pathway for authorization of cloud service offerings.



Photo from L to R Ms. Johanna Curry, Mr. Reginald Bagby, Mr. Douglas Haskin, Mr. Archie Mackie, Jr., Mr. Keith Baylor, COL John Rozsnyai, Ms. Carol Assi, and Mr. Jeremy Miller

“The CHCV industry day was a marked success for PEO EIS and the Army at large,” said EC Product Director **Mr. Archie Mackie**. “It’s through events like [this] that the Army learns what industry is truly capable of providing and if the Army’s expectations and requests are feasible... the exchange of information was enlightening, and a step in the right direction.”

The CHCV industry day was held in connection with a request for information (RFI) released July 1. **The RFI seeks information on consolidated and integrated commercial service delivery capabilities** for providing cloud computing to Army applications in three major categories: general cloud essential capabilities, common technical requirements and performance specifications and parameters.

For more details on the Army CHCV or view presentations from the industry day, visit [FedBizOpps](https://www.fedbizopps.gov).



Mr. Doug Haskin



COL John Rozsnyai



Mr. Robert Vietmeyer



Mr. Archie Mackie, Jr.



Mr. Jeremy Miller



Mr. Keith Baylor



A Q&A participant

DOD BIOMETRICS WELCOMES NEW LEADER

By Ms. Elyn Kocher, PEO EIS Public Affairs

Photos by Ms. Sam Soleimanifar

On July 16, PEO EIS **Mr. Douglas Wiltsie** hosted a ceremony to officially transfer the DOD Biometrics charter from **COL Sandy Vann-Olejasz** to incoming project manager, **COL Donald Hurst**.

COL Vann-Olejasz had led DOD Biometrics since **July 2011** and, during her tenure, implemented an enduring and affordable biometrics capability that will revolutionize how the DOD, Department of Homeland Security and Department of Justice accomplish national security missions. COL Vann-Olejasz will remain at PEO EIS as she takes on the role of military deputy.

COL Hurst most recently held the position of director, fires and force protection at ASA(ALT).



Mr. Wiltsie (center) transfers the DOD Biometrics charter from COL Vann-Olejasz (L) to COL Hurst (R)



COL Donald Hurst

He began his Army service in 1992 as a Distinguished Military Graduate through the Reserve Officer Training Corps program at the University of California – Davis, and was commissioned Military Intelligence branch detailed to the Armor Corps.

As DOD Biometrics project manager, COL Hurst is responsible for the program’s mission of designing, engineering, acquiring, deploying and sustaining enterprise biometric solutions in multiple operating environments, enabling identity dominance on the battlefield and across the DOD.

Welcome, COL Hurst, and thank you for your dedicated service, COL Vann-Olejasz!

GOLD STAR

MOTHER’S DAY

WE REMEMBER AND HONOR THE SURVIVING MOTHERS AND FAMILIES OF FALLEN SERVICE MEMBERS

GFEBs INCREMENT II

ASSUMPTION OF CHARTER

By Ms. Pam Gray, GFEBs Communications

Photo by Mr. Jon Walman

General Fund Enterprise Business System (GFEBs) Project Manager **COL William Russell** hosted the GFEBs Increment II assumption of charter ceremony July 31 at Fort Belvoir, Virginia, and welcomed back **Mr. Brendan Burke**. Mr. Burke, former Computer Hardware, Enterprise Software and Solutions product director, returns to PEO EIS from the Dwight D. Eisenhower School for National Security and Resource Strategy (formerly ICAF), National Defense University.

Commenting on Mr. Burke's path ahead, COL Russell stated, "I believe this is a perfect opportunity for Brendan. I am very thankful the he is joining this team. [He] can start to resource a team ... and build, mold, and shape the right skillsets to accomplish this extremely important mission."

GFEBs was the first Enterprise Resource Planning structure to fully deploy within the Department of the Army and **GFEBs Increment II will continue improving the Army's business processes.** Increment II will allow for full cost reporting of the Army's outputs (products and services) and will create an auditable trail. It will also **accommodate emerging requirements for enhanced financial integration, Army single labor time tracking and environmental and integrated resource management.** These requirements not only provide additional capability, but improve automated integration of financial data, enhance business process efficiencies, increase interoperability and maintain auditability.

At the ceremony, Mr. Burke thanked those who have had a hand in this career and noted that he was up to the task of starting a new acquisition program, stating, "I am excited about the challenge. I am humbled by the opportunity that COL Russell has given me."



COL Russell and Mr. Burke.



I3MP

CHANGE OF CHARTER

By Ms. Elyn Kocher, PEO EIS Public Affairs

Installation Information Infrastructure – Communications and Capabilities (I3C2) Project Manager **Mr. Michael Padden** hosted a change of charter ceremony July 10, officially transferring the project manager, Installation Information Infrastructure Modernization Program (I3MP) charter, which becomes a product director position, from **LTC Robert “RJ” Mikesh** to **LTC Gus Muller**.

I3MP provides a robust and scalable networked information infrastructure that allows migration to a network-centric, knowledge-based operation and enhances connectivity between forward deployed forces with Continental United States (CONUS), Europe and Pacific-based forces. **I3MP is a part of the joint effort to enhance network infrastructure for better efficiency and effectiveness of the network and Army interoperability** across the DOD.

I3MP enables the Soldier via the modernization of IT infrastructure and life cycle management of the Army’s CONUS installation campus area networks and strategic command centers.

LTC Mikesh has led I3MP since July 2012 and, during his tenure, worked closely with the United States Army Network Enterprise Technology Command, Defense Information Systems Agency and 7th Signal Command to implement elements of the Army CIO/G-6’s IT network modernization plan at all CONUS camps, posts and stations.

LTC Muller most recently led the Plans and Programs team under the Director of Plans, Programs and Resources for the Assistant Secretary of the Army for Acquisition, Logistics and Technology, Pentagon, and has held leadership positions at Future Combat Systems and Army Test and Evaluation Command. He is DAU Level III certified in program management and in test and evaluation.

Welcome, LTC Muller, and thank you for your service, LTC Mikesh!



Mr. Padden transferring the I3MP Charter from LTC Mikesh to LTC Muller.



LTC Gus Muller



LTC Robert Mikesh



Mr. Michael Padden

IPPS-A INCREMENT II CHANGE OF CHARTER

By Ms. Katherine Hutton, IPPS-A Communications Support

On July 30, Integrated Personnel and Pay System – Army (IPPS-A) Project Manager **COL James “Darby” McNulty** hosted a change of charter ceremony in Alexandria, Virginia, transitioning the IPPS-A Increment II (INC II) charter from **COL Kevin Vanyo** to **LTC Nicole Reinhardt**.

COL Vanyo has served as the IPPS-A INC II product manager since November 2012 and departs PEO EIS for the U.S. Army Tank Automotive Research, Development and Engineering Center, where he will serve as military deputy.

Under COL Vanyo’s leadership, IPPS-A fully deployed INC I and began the development and fielding phase of INC II. “COL Vanyo has been a true professional and a driving force of this team,” said COL McNulty.

Photos by Ms. Sam Soleimanifar



COL McNulty (centered), COL Vanyo (L), LTC Reinhardt (R).



The ceremony took place at the George Washington Masonic National Memorial in Alexandria, VA

LTC Reinhardt comes to IPPS-A from PEO Soldier as the product director for Soldier Systems Integration. She will now be responsible for the development, integration, testing, fielding and sustainment of IPPS-A INC II, which will provide the majority of IPPS-A functionality.

“I told my family [before the ceremony], ‘take a look behind you because we just expanded our family,’” said LTC Reinhardt. “We have a new Army family. I am grateful for who I see out here and I look forward to what’s to come.”

WESS

CHANGE OF CHARTER

By Mr. James Christophersen, DCATS Communications

Defense Communications and Army Transmission Systems (DCATS) Project Manager **COL Charles Stein** hosted a change of charter ceremony August 14 at Fort Belvoir, Virginia, to officially transition the Wideband Enterprise Satellite Systems (WESS) charter from acting Product Director **Mr. Michael McGarvey** to **LTC Joel Babbitt**.



COL Stein transferring the WESS charter from Mr. McGarvey to LTC Babbitt.

WESS is the Army's manager for the acquisition, development and modernization of wideband enterprise satellite communication systems and state-of-the-art satellite network control systems. WESS systems integrate into a system-of-systems architecture supporting strategic communications infrastructure, presidential communications, the Defense Information Systems Network, Army LandWarNet, the Ballistic Missile Defense System and strategic reach-back for deployed forces.

COL Stein presented the **Civilian Achievement Medal** to Mr. McGarvey in recognition of his leadership and accomplishments during his tenure at WESS. Mr. McGarvey continues with WESS, returning to the post of deputy product director which he held prior to selection to serve a short assignment as product director.

LTC Babbitt comes to WESS from PEO Command Control Communications-Tactical, where he served for three years as the product manager (PdM) for Warfighter Information Network – Tactical Increment 1. As PdM, LTC Babbitt introduced WiFi to the tactical Army and enroute communications to the Global Response Force. Prior to that, LTC Babbitt was the PdM for Command, Control, Communications, Computers and Intelligence for a unit under the U.S. Special Operations Command at Fort Bragg, North Carolina. He was responsible for funding, developing, acquiring, fielding and sustaining all communications and intelligence support systems and capabilities for the military's most elite units.



COL Stein and Mr. McGarvey



COL Stein



LTC Babbitt

RCAS STAFF MEMBER BECOMES AN RCAS CUSTOMER

By Mr. Pete Van Schagen, RCAS Strategic Communications

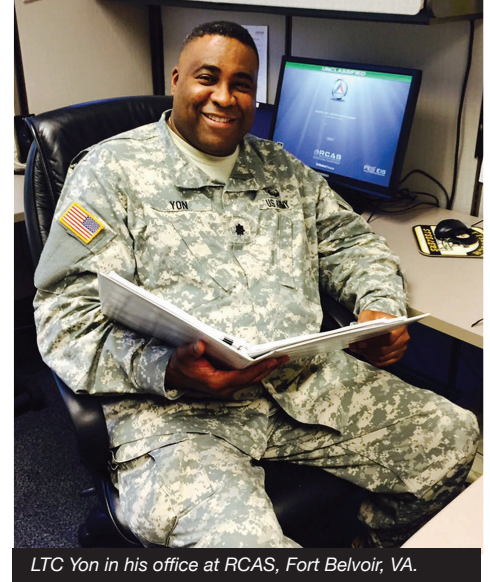
This past July, former Reserve Component Automation Systems (RCAS) Infrastructure and Integration Division (IID) Chief **LTC Jeffrey T. Yon** left his position to become the **new chief of the Training Systems Integration branch** at Army National Guard (ARNG), a long standing RCAS customer.

LTC Yon started working for RCAS in 2000 with the fielding and deployment of hardware to ARNG and U.S. Army Reserve sites. He was part of the quality assurance team that conducted site observations during increments 3, 4 and 5 of the acquisition category II process.

His next assignment took him to the ARNG G6 Network Operations Center where he worked as a chief engineer and helped move the organization to a peerless internet protocol network. Later assignments included work in the headquarters department of the Army G6 and the ARNG G6.

In June 2012, LTC Yon came back to RCAS as the chief, Engineering Operations and Services Division which later became IID. During this time, working closely with the ARNG Training Division, **he doubled the number of fielded mobile distributed learning classrooms (MDLCs)**. LTC Yon also completed a 100% swap out of CODEC endpoints, devices that compress data to enable faster transmission and decompress received data, to fulfill an immediate security requirement which prevented the classrooms from being taken off of the network. He was also instrumental in working with the RCAS prime integrator and the ARNG Training Division to develop the emerging requirements for the MDLC-Lite classrooms.

LTC Yon will be missed, but RCAS looks forward to the opportunity to serve the training needs of our Soldiers as he takes the reins of his new position.



LTC Yon in his office at RCAS, Fort Belvoir, VA.



