

## Aberdeen SSCF Visit CENTCOM SOCOM Orlando

From Jan. 25-29, the Senior Service College Fellowship (SSCF) Program from Aberdeen Proving Ground (APG), Md. visited key locations in central Florida that play a significant role in national security. The fellows were joined by their counterparts from the DAU South SSCF program. Participants from APG included SSCF Program Director Jim Oman; Fellows Medhat Abuhantash, Rick Cozby, Corde Lane, Deirdre Sumpter, Tony Subrizi, and Chris Manning; and Coordinator Parker Bennett. Representing the SSCF Program from DAU South were Fellows Dave Browning, Edgar Dalrymple, Janet Fletcher, Ed Helms, Wayne Leonard Jr., April Miller, Christina Ridgeway, and Steve Stegman along with Learning Support Faculty member Marsha Dollarhide. This trip deepened the Fellows' understanding of combatant commands as well as afforded them the opportunity to observe some of the latest modeling, simulations, and gaming capabilities available throughout DoD.

The fellowship began the visit at MacDill Air Force Base in Tampa, Fla., where they received briefings at U.S. Central Command (USCENTCOM) and U.S. Special Operations Command (USSOCOM). At USCENTCOM, U.S. Navy Capt., Jack Hazlik, Public Affairs Officer, provided an Area of Responsibility brief where he explained the command's mission, challenges, and interests. Afterwards, Mr. Ron Quave from Northrop Grumman presented a National Security Strategy Overview brief touching on the pillars of National Security. Concluding the morning briefs, was a logistics overview brief provided by U.S. Army Lt. Col. Spearow who spoke about strategic relationships, contracting, and distribution networks in the USCENTCOM area of responsibility.

In the afternoon, the group traveled to USSOCOM. U.S. Army Col. Goto, Chief J7/9-K, provided an overview briefing including its mission, values, and current operational plans. The second briefing, by Deputy Director for Acquisition Mr. James Geurts, a member of the Senior Executive Service, discussed USSOCOM's approach to acquisition. Mr. Geurts pointed out USSOCOM's blend of acquisition policies, which included its ability to manage risk while exploiting proven acquisition techniques. The last brief of the day, USSOCOM's Role in the Global War on Terrorism, given by the J51 U.S. Army Col. Sheffield, who explained the command's planning, synchronizing, and as directed, executing of global operations against terrorist networks.

Early Wednesday, the Fellows continued on to Orlando, Fla. to visit the Program Executive Office for Simulation, Training, and Instrumentation (PEO STRI). At PEO STRI, the fellowship received a command overview from Mr. Pete Marion, Customer Support Executive, and a Strategic Integration Overview from Mr. Scott Pulford, Strategic Integrator. In small groups the Fellows tested the latest training simulators. In the Product Manager, Air and Command Tactical Trainers Game Lab, the Fellows played out scenarios in a video game format, with an afteraction review used to help soldiers make more astute battlefield decisions. In the Simulation and Training Technical Center, the Fellows shot a variety of small arms using the Engagement Skills Trainer 2000, a low cost simulation that provides marks-

manship, collective tasks, and discretionary instruction. Additional demonstrations included the Medical Simulation Technology lab's realistic dummies and wounds used to prepare medics for quick responses to battlefield injuries. The day concluded with a test drive in the Common Driver Trainer (CDT). The CDT is a motion-based, low-cost driver simulation with interchangeable parts used to train members of the armed services to drive Strykers, M1A2 Abrams, and Mine Resistant Ambush Protected vehicles.

The last day of the trip began with a brief on Team Orlando by Mr. Michael Willoughby, Deputy Director of the Joint Training Integration and Evaluation Center (JTIEC). He spoke about Team Orlando's unique partnership between industry, academia, and government and its ability to leverage collaborative uses of technology to address the military's training issues. Next, Dr. Brian Goldiez provided an overview of the University of Central Florida (UCF) Institute for Simulation Technology. Tours of UCF's projects included the Human Experience Modeler which blends reality with the virtual world to aid with the cognitive rehabilitation of a traumatized brain. Such technology is revolutionary in helping those afflicted with brain injuries readjust to their lives at home.

Finally, the trip wrapped up with a behind the scenes tour of TEQ Games at Universal Studios. Mr. Marc Watson, President of Imagine Creative Technology explained the development of learning tools that embed education into a game-like story line. He described how the programs used by TEQ Games have had enormous success at educating failing students. One of the key techniques is the incorporation of a suspension of belief that draws the learner into the problem and keeps him engaged throughout the learning process. Mr. Watson demonstrated this using Universal's Spiderman Ride as an example of storytelling, which creates this sense and draws in the participant from start to finish. The Fellows observed how this type of entertainment technology could have endless implications for of military training simulations.

The Fellows walked away from this trip with a clearer understanding of the roles played by the combatant commands and a more comprehensive appreciation for the technological training tools in use and under development that have come about as a result of the unique collaborative alliance found within Team



APG SSCF Fellow Mr. Bill Gilbert receives a briefing on the Extremities – Multiple Applications Trainer from Mr. Todd.



APG SSCF Fellow, Mr. Medhat Abuhantash tries his hand at driving the M1A2 Abrams in the Common Driver Trainer.