

Chief of Signal

MG LaWarren V. Patterson

NIE process continues shaping, deploying new technology

Signaleers,

Here at Fort Gordon, General Dynamics has a student lab where Soldiers access virtual training using their own Smartphones and tablets. They can watch videos or use first-person, video-game like scenarios to learn about WIN-T equipment. Lessons are self-paced and Soldiers study during down time or when they are working on the equipment and need a refresher.

This type of training fulfills the Army Learning Model intent: fewer lectures, less Powerpoint and more collaboration through virtualization.

In my visit to Fort Bliss and the 2-1 Brigade Combat Team, I learned first-hand about the training to prepare Soldiers for the Network Integration Evaluation. For the 14.1 evaluation, 1,300 Soldiers in the brigade attended 110 different New Equipment Training courses for 2,400 hours of training.

The Brigade Modernization Command now vets all training materials for manufacturers who want their equipment evaluated at NIE. If the training isn't up to standard, the equipment doesn't come out to White Sands for the NIE.

We need more virtual training for NIE. When the Ground Mobile Radio was under test, users received limited virtual training on the \$1 million radios. But none of the training was held outside the classroom and none of the training was self-paced, as it is at

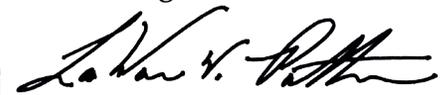
the experimental General Dynamics lab here at Fort Gordon. And the GMR radio was difficult to operate. Complexity and lack of virtual training are issues we must fix.

How? I am asking all IT development experts to look at the next generation of IT systems and focus on having the complexity inside the box and keep the simplicity outside the box. However, until we can resolve the complexity issue with the next generation of signal and mission command systems several years down the road; we will need to overcome complexity by providing ways for Soldiers to access the equipment anytime/anywhere to train and practice continuously. Here's where live, constructive, virtual and gaming concepts, as well as the Installation As A Docking Station initiative, will play key roles.

We have many system users who are not taking pride of ownership and instead rely on 25-series Soldiers or field service reps to work their communications equipment. All Soldiers must take ownership of their systems and take pride in being the expert, whether it is a communications provisioning system, a mission command system, a LOG system or a Human Resource system.

The BMC is working with the National Simulation Center at Fort Leavenworth to develop virtual training for NIE equipment so Soldiers stay current on systems that are being updated or are secured in a Connex. I hope to see this in action on a future NIE visit.

Pro Patria Vigilans!



Join the Discussion
<https://signallink.army.mil>

