

# Army Aviation Strong

Our theme this issue reflects the great heritage of Army aviation and the critical support Army aviators provide in humanitarian efforts, homeland defense, search and rescue, and most importantly, for Soldiers on the ground.

Program Executive Office (PEO) for Aviation is instrumental in providing Army aviation with new and better operational capabilities, enhanced digital interoperability with other systems, training systems and aircraft modernization programs.

We start the July-September issue with six articles about the Army's unmanned aircraft systems (UASs).

- In "Managing the Best Acquisition Program in the Army — This Is Where It All Happens," COL Don Hazelwood talks about PEO Aviation's UAS Project Office and the important work UASs are accomplishing in reconnaissance, surveillance, security and counter-improvised explosive device (IED) operations.
- William R. Ellis Jr. writes about small unmanned aerial vehicles in his "Acquisition in the Fast Lane — The Small Unmanned Aerial Vehicle Product Office." This article details the flexibility and agility required of today's product offices to meet urgent combat needs.
- "Common Systems Integration — Bringing It All Together" by LTC Jennifer Jensen and John Kaczynski explains how commanders and troops on the ground will have access to all military UAS assets in their area to make better-informed decisions.
- How medium altitude UASs such as the Warrior A and Warrior B are joining the fight against IEDs is the topic of LTC(P) Jeffrey Gabbert's and Steve Capps' article, "Medium

Altitude Endurance Unmanned Aircraft Systems — Fielding a UAS in Record Time."

- The last two UAS articles describe the Shadow 200 program and the Shadow's performance-based logistics strategy.

Being "Army Aviation Strong" is all about interoperability. Project Manager (PM) Aviation Systems strives to keep its eyes on the horizon as it works with Future Combat Systems to plan interoperability initiatives between manned and unmanned Future Force elements while remaining compatible with Current Force systems. COL Michelle Yarborough outlines her PM's strategy in "PM Aviation Systems — Building the Army's Strategic Interoperability Assets."

Our aviation section is rounded out by a series of articles on Apache program modernization, the CH-47F Chinook Improved Cargo helicopter, the Kiowa Warrior, aviation maintenance safety and aircrew night vision goggle studies. We wrap up with aviator and Vice Chief of Staff GEN Richard A. Cody's remarks at the Army Aviation Association of America's conference, where he praised PEOs and program managers who are teaming with industry to carry out aircraft development and modernization.

Our final feature article is an interview with Kevin Carroll, PEO Enterprise Information Systems. Carroll has been a driving force behind the Army's move to business transformation and infrastructure modernization during his tenure as PEO.

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Editor-in-Chief

U.S. Army SGT Brady Schaures waves to Guatemalan children during an overflight of Puerto Quetzal, Guatemala, Feb. 11, 2007. Schaures, with 1st Battalion, 228th Aviation Battalion, Soto Cano Air Base, Honduras, is providing support to the Joint Logistics Over-the-Shore exercise (JLOTS). JLOTS is a Joint training exercise focused on providing humanitarian relief or tactical support in an area without port facilities. (U.S. Army photo by Kaye Richey.)