

Army expands MilGaming portal

THE Army has expanded its MilGaming portal to include the latest version of Virtual BattleSpace 2, along with a suite of new PC-based training applications and tools.

Since the MilGaming portal launch a year ago, more than 12,000 people have spent more than 10,000 hours downloading game software and sharing user-created scenarios, models, terrains and videos. The site, <https://MilGaming.army.mil>, is open to anyone with a Department of Defense Common Access Card.

Now the site's playing field is even bigger. Updates to the portal include mobile applications that can be used with iPhones, iPads and Androids.

The expanded site includes Vignette Planning and Rehearsal Software, or ViPRS, a program that allows users to design and build scenarios that represent asymmetric aspects of conflict; and ELECT BiLAT, a 3-D simulation whereby players can practice meeting and negotiation skills.

Moral Combat, for example, injects players into a series of first-person, 3-D scenarios that challenge behavior and decision-making. There's also a suite of self-paced, in-



New games and virtual training tools are now available at the Army's MilGaming portal. (Photo illustration by David Vergun)

teractive foreign language programs to learn Arabic, Dari and Pashto.

The portal also includes forums where participants can share their experiences and offer lessons learned.

On tap for release in April is UrbanSim—a virtual training application for practicing battle command in counterinsurgency operations, while also focusing on the stability operations aspect of full-spectrum operations.

The portal is a joint venture between the Army Combined Arms Center-Training's National Simulation Center at Fort Leavenworth, Kan., and Program Executive Office for Simulation, Training and Instrumentation, known as PEO STI, in Orlando, Fla.

"What the portal provides is the opportunity for people to share experiences, training techniques and best practices," said Col. Anthony Krogh, National Simulation Center director.

"I think, taking the big picture look, that gaming has been arguably one of the most cost-effective training devices we've used in the last five years and we only see the portal growing," he said.

The Army is starting to develop more games that focus on things beyond kinetic or shooter action, because it wants Soldiers to have the opportunity to train on missions where behaviors, mannerisms and cultural impact are just as important, Krogh said. ♦

— J.D. Leipold/ARNEWS

Army to open off-post clinics

OVER the next few months, the Army plans to open a number of off-post medical clinics near major installations.

The first community-based medical home clinic was opened Nov. 30 near Fort Campbell, Ky. By April, Army Medical Command plans to have 17 of these clinics open.

Locations for the new clinics include sites near Fort Sill, Okla.; Fort Bragg, N.C.; Fort Stewart, Ga.; forts Sam Houston and Hood, Texas; Fort Shafter, Hawaii; Fort Lewis, Wash.; Fort Leonard Wood, Mo. and Fort Benning, Ga. Some posts will be serviced by more than one such clinic.

MEDCOM will be leasing the clinic space and tailoring it to meet the medical home model, rather than building new facilities, said Lt. Col. Bradley Lieurance, program manager for the community-based primary care clinic initiative.

Clinics will be housed in spaces ranging from office buildings to strip malls, he said.

The concept for community-based medical home clinics began when the Army realized it would need to provide

health care access to an increasing number of Soldiers and their Families who are being relocated as part of Base Realignment and Closure.

"At many of our Army installations, we have limited space, and military construction takes a considerable amount of time...we don't have the four-to-five years that it takes to complete a military construction project to adequately take care of the patients," said Lieurance.

The medical home clinic is a good solution to providing care for more beneficiaries without overloading Army hospitals, Lieurance said.

The clinics, which will each be able to accommodate about 8,100 enrolled patients, are primarily for the Families of Soldiers, said Lieurance.

Each off-post clinic will have 35 staff members: seven doctors or physicians' assistants, one behavioral health practitioner, four registered nurses, 16 licensed practical nurses, three administrative personnel, one pharmacist, one pharmacy technician and two lab technicians. ♦

— Alexandra Hemmerly-Brown/
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