U.S. Army ITA Welcomes New CTO

Washington, D.C. – The U.S. Army Information Technology Agency (ITA) welcomed Mr. Thomas Sasala into its newly established position of Chief Technology Officer (CTO) on 15 August 2011. In his role at ITA, the new CTO is responsible for establishing and providing oversight of the technology and innovation mission of the agency.

During the three months that Mr. Sasala has been at ITA, he has worked hard to stand-up the Office of the Chief Technology Officer (OCTO). To help guide their path forward, OCTO established a vision for their office to "be the primary technical expert to ITA on all matters related to IT strategic planning, implementation, and investment." Mr. Sasala and his team have also begun work on an IT Strategy and Roadmap. In line with ITA's recently released Strategic Plan, the IT Strategy and Roadmap will outline the agency's IT investment plan and path forward for FY2011-FY2016.

ITA's new Chief Technology Officer, Thomas Sasala

Mr. Sasala's most memorable experience with ITA came just three weeks after his start date. Executive Director Mr. Donald Adcock put Mr. Sasala in charge of ITA for eight consecutive days. During those eight days, Mr. Sasala met with a number of senior leaders from across the Department of Defense, Army, and other armed services including LTG Lawrence, Mr. Krieger, and Mr. O'Keefe. Mr. Sasala stated that he was "in awe of the size and scope of the organization" and the tremendous responsibility ITA has in serving the most senior members of the Department of Defense.

"Every decision we make has an impact on the men and women fighting wars," said Mr. Sasala. "We have the outstanding opportunity to support the Secretary of Defense and the entire Department of Defense".

Mr. Sasala joins ITA with a wealth of technology experience that will help shape his role at ITA. He began his career at the Naval Research Lab, working in an academic environment that provided few opportunities to make the immediate impact which ITA affords him. Understanding the importance of research and development, Mr. Sasala plans to establish an Enterprise Lab which will give ITA the opportunity to research and test new technologies in the agency's operating environment. The Enterprise Lab will be the "key construct to driving innovation," says Mr. Sasala.

After his job at the Naval Research Lab, Mr. Sasala joined a private sector company working to launch a mobile learning technology that would allow students to take exams and read class materials on a handheld device. Over a decade ago the idea of a mobile learning environment was a difficult sell. Today, Mr. Sasala is tasked with enabling a mobile workforce and considers an abundance of new technologies to support his mission.

Mr. Sasala joins ITA with a tremendous amount of IT experience and knowledge of emerging technologies, stating his greatest challenge is also the opportunity he is most excited about. "I have the opportunity to stand-up this new office int eh midst of an agency reorganization," says Mr. Sasala, "And

while that may be challenging, I'm most excsited about being part of the push to evolve ITA into a more innovative and forward-leaning agency".

On a more personal note, Mr. Sasala enjoys playing ultimate Frisbee in his spare time, and has a disclaimer- he has never been s fan of his office's abbreviation "OCTO".

Mr. Sasala joins ITA with a tremendous amount of IT experience and knowledge of emerging technologies, stating his greatest challenge is also the opportunity he is most excited about. "I have the opportunity to stand-up this new office in the midst of an agency reorganization," says Mr. Sasala, "And while that may be challenging, I'm most excited about being a part of the push to evolve ITA into a more innovative and forward-leaning agency".

In his spare time Mr. Sasala enjoys playing ultimate Frisbee, and- as a disclaimer- he has never been a fan of the abbreviation "OCTO".