Games

From Page 8

fine-tuned and balanced for good game play and don't necessarily reflect real life."

The military also uses much more complex video game-like simulators to augment their real world training.

Special Forces units at Fort Bragg, for instance, use the "Laser Shot Virtual Shoot House." The building is designed to allow soldiers to blow in doors, fire live ammo at life-sized enemies and feel the thump of shots being fired back. The latest version of these shoot houses, designed by Texas-based Laser Shot, include smell emulators and a new technology that can project in the middle of a room, moving, life-sized holograms that can react to being shot.

The holograms are created by projecting video onto a fine wall of mist sprayed into a specific spot in a room. A complex 3-D algorithm then tracks bullets fired by training soldiers, determining when a round has pierced the image and the avatar reacts accordingly, said Kevin Bass, director of software development at Laser Shot. Other enemies appear on the building's interior walls, which are high-tech video screens that can self-seal after a bullet passes through them.

"The hologram stuff is still in its infancy," Bass said. "The idea is that instead of looking into a screen of characters, you become part of that virtual world."

In California, some of the shoot houses are designed to increase the interior temperature to more than 100 degrees during training.

"Military training is about how to do what you need to do under the fatigue and cognitive strain you will be under," Herz explains.

But both forms of military simulator concentrate on teaching things like the rules of engagement or how to tactically approach a specific conflict. Video games, at their best, deliver not a realistic experience, but a hyper-realistic one, Herz says.

"In a real battle you don't see a pink cloud of vaporized blood explode around a person," she said. "There is so much detail around these games that aren't in real battles. They are more detailed than real life. In a real combat situation none of that registers."

Video games are more about theatricality and entertainment that true realism.

"Realistic is you run out of ammo," Herz said. "There are no crates in the real world that you can shoot to get more."

And even the best simulators are designed to work in concert with live training, Brooks said.

"In our opinion, live training will always be the best; however, the virtual technology element in collaboration with live training brings superior performance and results, which provide many benefits, such as less loss of life, lower cost of ownership, and better decisionmaking," he said.

Video games, certainly the sort available at most stores, will likely never be effective tools for preparing for warfare or criminality. And they're certainly not the reason bad people do bad things.

"I think it is important not to get caught up in the mythology that video games that allow people to run around firing automatic weapons somehow make people into sociopaths," Herz said. "It's true that sociopaths will be attracted to them just like people with addictive personalities will be attracted to gambling, but that doesn't mean we should outlaw blackjack for everyone."

Arts

From Page 1

Community band and several Lewis and Clark Playhouse productions.

Lewis graduated from YHS in 1977 and currently resides in St. Louis, where he has practiced with Radiologic Imaging Consultants since 1989.

CAROL HAMVAS

While Carol Hamvas is being inducted as a contributor to the fine arts, she said she has always imagined herself as more of a supporter of the arts as a member of the audience. It was her late husband Lewis, an inductee to the YHS Fine Arts Hall of Fame in 2002, who was the contributor, she said.

"It bothered me when I married Lewis that I was not a musician," Hamvas said. "However, he assuaged me be saying that without an audience, a performance is simply 'practice."

ply 'practice.'"

Hamvas and her youngest son played their roles in the audience as her three other children played in the YHS orchestra and All-State orchestra. And even though her children have since left home, she said she continues to attend as many concerts as she can to encourage YHS students and follow their musical development.

"This honor urges me to continue attending concerts, supporting and encouraging teachers and students to perform for an appreciative audience," Hamvas said. "I hope this honor will also encourage others to support our talented students and show how important a good audience can be."

You can follow Derek Bartos on Twitter at twitter.com/d_bartos



