

# The Outpost

Published for the employees and families of Yuma Proving Ground, Yuma Test Center, U.S. Army Garrison - Yuma, Cold Regions Test Center, and Tropic Regions Test Center

U.S. Army Yuma Proving Ground, Yuma, Arizona 85365

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## YPG's busy artillery workload leads to some of best gun crews in the Army

by Mary F. Flores

It's early morning when supplies and equipment are gathered: water, ice, bipods, mortar tubes, base plates, and a long check list of other items needed to support test firing of field artillery or mortars systems. Everything is loaded into the back of trucks and they are on their way.

With over 100 gun positions located throughout Yuma Proving Ground's vast ranges, artillery testers travel 10 to 50 miles downrange on any given day to support a test. After completing daily preparations, a crew of four to five artillery testers, commonly known as "gunners," drive to a particular gun position where the test plan calls for the shooting of 70 rounds from an M777A2 155mm lightweight towed howitzer.

Like in a football game, gunners and other key support personnel, huddle up for a safety brief given by the test officer overseeing the day's mis-

sion. The gunners listen to a familiar speech, one that provides pertinent information about test procedures and requirements, to include the weather forecast and reminders to remain hydrated and vigilant, maintaining a safe work environment.

"Before a weapon can be fired, there are a number of things we do as we go through our prefire checks and preparation of the gun," said Carlos Padilla, lead artillery tester for the Weapons and Operations Division.

Weapons operations has 10 artillery test crews that each consist of one gun chief or "leader," a gunner, assistant gunner, and one or two cannoner. They are disbursed each day throughout Kofa and Cibola ranges to support tests. The crews drive to their individual destinations each day for test missions putting equipment like the M109A6 self-propelled howitzer, M119A2 105mm light towed howitzer, or the M298 120mm, and M252 (See Artillery workload on page 4)

## Medical specialist: Third generation Soldier

by Yolie Canales

"Growing up in a military family, from my grandfather who fought in World War II to my father, who fought in Vietnam, right down to my two brothers and brother-in-law, I come from a military-oriented and all Army family," said Spec. Zachariah Kitzman, health care specialist for the Yuma Proving Ground Health Clinic and recently selected as YPG's Soldier of the Quarter.

Kitzman, who has been in the Army for three years, joined because he felt it was the right thing to do. "We live in a country that gives us so much. The least I could do was give my expertise and skills to the Army," said Kitzman. Trying to join right out of high school, he had to wait for a medical clearance for four years before he could enlist. "I believe that the wait gave me the opportunity to mature and gain experience in civilian life prior to my enlistment. It sure helped me during basic training," said Kitzman. "I was able to deal in a more mature and stable manner with all the different things

put before me."

He found basic training to be quite an experience. "My drill instructor challenged us and said there were two ways to make it in the Army -- the smart or the strong way," he explained. "Personally, I feel everyone should serve at least one enlistment in the armed force of their choice."

Kitzman feels he grew up with strong moral values that he attributes to his parents. To this day, he says, his father says one of his worst decisions was not staying in the military.

Currently, Kitzman's says his passion is in the field of politics but plans to make the Army his place of work for a while. "I love what I do as a medical specialist because it brings great joy to know that someone out there depends on my skills." He says his wife supports his career goals and had encouraged him to enlist.

Kitzman credits his recognition as YPG Soldier of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter to his aim of always doing a good job at the clinic. He is looking forward to going

(See Medical on page 3)



Carlos Padilla, artillery tester leader and two gunners conduct a preventative maintenance check on a gun before testing begins. (Photo by Mary Flores)

## CRTC supplies critical support to local fair

by Mark Schauer

Two gritty 1980s pick-up trucks with lifted suspensions and massive tires stand side by side, covered with brown muck. The trucks send surges of adrenaline coursing through the spectators with each throaty rev of their engines. A mechanical light tree in the center of the two lanes descends to green, and the two behemoths surge forward, descending into a pit of wet dirt, geysering mud over their side panels and windshields before it mists back onto the spectators. The bigger of the two takes an early lead, but the smaller surges in the last third of the 280-foot long track and inches past the

favorite in the final dramatic bounce before the finish line.

Whether in the heartland or the last frontier, nothing says America like a summer fair. *USA Today* recently recognized the Deltana Regional Fair as one of the ten best in the United States, and specifically mentioned the mud bog competition that pits four-wheel drive trucks and all-terrain vehicles against each other in a drag race through a muddy track. It is one of the most popular attractions of the year in rural Delta Junction, Alaska, (population 900) and cannot occur without volunteer labor and loaned equipment from U.S. Army Cold Re-

(See CRTC on page 6)

# News Notes

## Thanks, Team YPG

What we do every day at YPG makes a difference in the lives of our ultimate customer — the warfighter. Below is a short description of the character of the men and women that fill the ranks of our Armed Forces.

Keep up the great work ... our efforts are in support of our nation's greatest asset — its people. Thanks, Col. Thomas Payne

### When the music stopped...

At all military base theaters, the National Anthem is played before the movie begins, for those of you who are not aware.

This letter was written from a Chaplain in Iraq:

I recently attended a showing of 'Spiderman 3' here at LSA Anaconda. We have a large auditorium we use for movies, as well as memorial services and other large gatherings. As is the custom at all military bases, we stood to attention when the National Anthem began to play before the main feature. All was going well until three-quarters of the way through the National Anthem, the music stopped. Now, what would happen if this occurred with 1,000 18 to 22 year-olds back in the states? I imagine there would be hoots, catcalls, laughter, a few rude comments, and everyone would sit down and yell for the movie to begin. Of course, that is, if they had stood for the National Anthem in the first place.

Here in Iraq, 1,000 Soldiers continued to stand at attention, eyes fixed forward. The music started again and the Soldiers continued to quietly stand at attention. But again, at the same point, the music stopped. What would you expect 1,000 Soldiers standing at attention to do? Frankly, I expected some laughter, and everyone would eventually sit down and wait for the movie to start. But no! ... You could have heard a pin drop, while every Soldier continued to stand at attention. Suddenly, there was a lone voice from the front of the auditorium, then a dozen voices, and soon the room was filled with the voices of a 1,000 Soldiers, finishing where the recording left off:

*"And the rockets' red glare, the bombs bursting in air, gave proof through the night that our flag was still there. Oh, say does that Star Spangled Banner yet wave, o'er the land of the free, and the home of the brave."* It was the most inspiring moment I have had in Iraq and I wanted you to know what kind of Soldiers are serving you. Remember them as they fight for us!

Pass this along as a reminder to others to be ever in prayer for all our Soldiers serving us here at home and abroad. Many have already paid the ultimate price.

Written by Chaplain Jim Higgins. LSA Anaconda is at the Ballad Airport in Iraq, north of Baghdad.

God Bless America and all of our troops serving throughout the world.

I agree, "God Bless our troops."

## Voluntary Leave Transfer Program update

It is still early in the leave year, but some YPG family members are in need of leave. Leave donations as small as one hour are truly appreciated. Only donations from Appropriated Fund civil service employees will be accepted.

The Voluntary Leave Transfer Program (VLTP) is a way to donate annual leave to co-workers who are experiencing a medical emergency (their own or a family member's emergency) and do not have enough leave to cover their absences. These employees have used or will use all sick and annual leave before being eligible to receive donations.

### YPG currently has seven employees on the VLTP recipient list:

- Michelle Cruz, Yuma CPAC, complications during pregnancy
- Rosa Dayton, MWR, back surgery
- Lorraine Hernandez, Yuma NEC, providing emergency care for father
- Teresa Lanham, CRTC, degenerative spinal issues
- Robert "Smokee" Trujillo, YTC, motorcycle accident and subsequent surgeries
- Jesse White, YTC, cancer surgery

(See Leave donation on page 5)

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## New software program developed to improve test equipment

by Mary F. Flores

In the test and development world at Yuma Proving Ground, the men and women who support the mission are constantly working to stay current with technology, looking for ways to improve, integrate or develop faster and smarter ways to test equipment for the warfighter. This past June, John Curry, operations research analyst for data reduction in the Technical Services Division, presented a new software program at a symposium held in Quantico, Va. The software program determines the positional and angular motion of relatively stationary test objects during the various stages of their firing, as derived from high-speed, high-definition, digital camera imagery.

The software program provides detailed information in three dimensions to testers and took nearly four years to develop by a team of YPG veterans; Curry and co-worker Jeff Kenney, a computer scientist. In a recent rocket launcher test, Curry utilized the software to process the camera-derived data and later showcased the findings at the symposium. He provided attendees with examples of motion comparisons, which determined the motions of a rocket launcher in 24 test firings. In addition, Curry showed how the software package was able to capture physical data imagery for measurement analysis and accurate results

in time-space-coordinates to depict an entire event.

"We developed this system from the ground up and this software allows testers to see how different platforms on the ground are firing and to see how much an object moves, either linearly (millimeters or inches) or angularly (degrees)," explained Curry. "Using a Java-based graphical user interface for cross-platform support, it provides an excellent tool for interaction with the images, allowing test engineers to see precisely how much an object moves during firing." After all data is gathered, he went on to say, testers can go back and make improvements on the weapons system, making it safer for the warfighter.

The video processing capabilities of this software can support many other types of tests, such as airdrops. "Features of this software can support a test with, personnel jumping out of an aircraft to examine the performance of the parachute," said Curry, "when the drops are tracked with a kineto tracking mount."

Curry and Kenney, who have both been employed at YPG for nearly 20 years, worked over the past four years refining the software program. Both work in data reduction where raw test data from radars and cameras is taken after a test mission and processed into a format for the customer to use, such as in a spreadsheet. The new software

(See Software on page 8)



John Curry (standing) and Jeff Kenny go over documents on the software program they developed while preparing to present it at a symposium in Quantico, Va. (Photo by Mary Flores)

# Dynamic police chief oversees more than 80 employees and improvements

by Mark Schauer

As the second-largest Army installation in area with an important test mission, Yuma Proving Ground's security is of critical importance. This tremendous responsibility is largely supported by the men and women of YPG's police and guard force, a fact that is at the forefront of the mind of YPG police chief Christi Bowman.

Bowman brings to the job over 30 eventful years of experience in multiple branches of the military and law enforcement. A native of Kansas, Bowman joined the Army at age 20. After serving her enlistment, she briefly returned to civilian life to attend school, but grew bored and joined the Coast Guard, where she got her first taste of police life. While stationed in Miami in the mid-1980s, Bowman worked on a drug interdiction patrol boat. She subsequently was granted an early release from the Coast Guard to join the Army's Reserve Officer Training Corps, where she served six years. As a civilian, she was chief of police at Hunter's Point Naval Shipyard in San Francisco and was subsequently stationed in



**YPG police chief Christi Bowman brings to YPG over 30 years of military and law enforcement experience. She believes that in the law enforcement business, you have to be a situational leader. (Photo by Mark Schauer)**

Kuwait. In between she served three separate tours in the police department at U.S. Army Kwajalein Atoll, the last of which occurred just prior to her relocation to YPG.

"I've been overseas a good portion of my career and wanted to come back to the states to be near family," Bowman said. "YPG is very similar to my previous base in that they are both test ranges that support the warfighter."

Though only at YPG for some three months, Bowman has overseen major changes in the department, including the relocation of the police

dispatch center to a larger building in YPG's Main Administrative Area that is roomier and more secure. The largest change so far, however, is the conversion of all YPG gate guards to civil service employment. Until now, gate guards at the main administrative area and Kofa Firing Range were civil service employees, while those at the Yuma Test Center and the Laguna Army Airfield gates were contractors. The change brings the number of men and women under her to over 80.

"Overall, I'd say I have a democratic leadership style, but in this business I've learned you have to be a situational leader," Bowman said. "You have to adapt your leadership style to fit your personnel. One style may not necessarily work for everyone."

Bowman is eager to improve upon and expand department training opportunities that were recently instituted by emergency services director Angelia Pinto. Though constrained by tight budgets and a hiring freeze, Bowman is enjoying her new position and looks forward to many years of service in Yuma.

"With current world events and the situation on the border, our job is complicated in that you have to be ready for any threat," she said. "I'm confident we are prepared for this difficult task."

## Medical (Continued from page 1)

before the E-5 board soon and hopes to win at that level.

"I constantly keep educating myself by reading different medical manuals/books and any other publication I can learn from," said Kitzman. "In this field, you never stop learning."

Coming to YPG from Fort Carson in Colorado Springs, Colo., Kitzman says he's had some rewarding experiences in his Army career. "One experience that stays fresh in my mind is the year I spent in Iraq. It gave me the opportunity to learn about their culture, but, most of all, the opportunity to be able to provide medical care to infants as well as adults," he said. "It was an unforgettable and rewarding experience."

As a member of a scout unit, Kitzman had to know a great deal more than just the medical aspects

of his job. For instance, he had to know how a Bradley Fighting Vehicle works in case something went wrong. "I needed to know how to do the basic job of others in case I had to take over. You have to be aware of all your surroundings over there," he said.

Kitzman likes to read in the field of history, loves living in the southwest and is married with a three month old son. "I'm a native of Michigan and, believe me, you learn to appreciate the hot weather after being raised in the snow," he said. He looks forward to the coming pleasant winter months and considers living in a fairly remote location a 'piece of cake,' considering the town he grew up in was two hours from the nearest large town.



**Spec. Zachariah Kitzman, medical specialist, takes a pulse reading during a busy morning at the health clinic. (Photo by Mark Schauer)**

## Hunting season begins Sept. 1 at proving ground

Hunting on Yuma Proving Ground (YPG) is allowed in designated areas starting on the first day of early dove season, September 1, and continues through the last day of quail season, February 6, 2011. Legal game on the installation includes: quail, dove, deer, bighorn sheep as well as several predatory and fur-bearing mammals listed in the 2010-2011 Arizona Hunting Regulations.

To hunt on YPG, you must obtain a YPG Hunting Access Permit by completing a hunting access permit application and hold harmless agreement and acknowledging that you have read the range safety briefing. **No applications will be processed without verification of viewing the YPG Range Safety briefing.** The briefing is available at the hunting program office or through our hunting program website listed below. The hunting access permits are issued for the current calendar year. To obtain a hunting access permit, you may call toll-free 1-877-788-HUNT (4868) or (928) 328-2630 or stop by the hunting program office on the Main Administrative Area at the Zia Engineering Office, Bldg. 105, north of the Heritage Center. Hours of operation are 6:30 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday through Thursday. There is a \$10 fee for the access permit, with exceptions for hunters under 14, Arizona Pioneer

license holders and Arizona disabled veterans license holders.

The hunting program office has a brochure available, which provides information on YPG rules, regulations, procedures and hunting safety as well as a map of YPG showing the designated hunting areas. You may request a hunting program brochure and application by mail, e-mail, visiting the hunting program office or viewing and downloading the information at [http://www.yuma.army.mil/hunting\\_rules.shtml](http://www.yuma.army.mil/hunting_rules.shtml). Applicants using the website must print, sign, and mail the completed application, Hold harmless agreement, range safety briefing verification form, and fees. The website contains all information included in the brochure. If you are planning on hunting on YPG, be sure to review the designated hunting areas in our webpage or brochure.

Hunters must also be in compliance with all Arizona Game and Fish Regulations and possess appropriate state licenses and/or tags.

For information on state hunting license requirements, please call Arizona Game and Fish Region IV at (928) 342-0091. For those of you who wish to take advantage of this privilege, have a safe and enjoyable hunt.

## Artillery workload (Continued from page 1)

81mm mortars through grueling punishment in extreme hot weather conditions and rugged desert terrain.

“It all depends on the type of test we’re going to support as to what we bring out for the day,” said Padilla. “One day the test plan may call for firing mortars for a radar test and the next day it could be heavy artillery, or we may be testing the projectile, fuse or powder charges. It varies from day to day.”

The gunners work in potentially hazardous situations with large caliber artillery and ammunition, and take safety seriously. Prior to each test, they set up road blocks around the parameters of the gun position, ensure safety flags or beacons are visible, check the communication boxes and radios to ensure they are working and check the gun position for proper set up, keeping it safe for everyone. The gun chief ensures proper protective gear is worn such as hearing protection, gloves, steel toed boots, hats, and sunscreen. In addition, crews are reminded to take refuge from the scorching sun and to drink plenty of water throughout the day.

With a high percentage of gunners having served in the armed forces, much of what they do comes naturally and effortlessly. Padilla, who served 10 years in the Army as an artilleryman, and Anthony Martinez, artillery tester who served four years, rely heavily on their training and exper-



**Test officer Jered Ford (right), pauses for a moment from a safety briefing he is giving the gun crew before they head out to conduct their test mission. Each morning, this briefing takes place. Here, they are reminded that all equipment must be checked for accuracy and, above all, they must keep safety in the forefront at all times. (Photos by Mary Flores)**

tise, always prepared for any type of mission. The gun chiefs are required to complete yearly mandatory safety certification tests and all artillery testers initially spend a minimum of two weeks hands-on training on all the

weapons to learn the fundamentals of each system.

Remaining flexible is also a key element, as each day can change at a moment’s notice. Sometimes the inevitable occurs with equipment failure, causing delays and forcing them to extend their work day up to 14 hours. “These men are ready to assist whenever and wherever they’re required to complete the mission,” Padilla said.

Working closely with all the elements required to support a test, including the test officers, data collectors, the electronics, radar, TV and photo personnel who record tests with high-speed, high-definition cameras and collect the critical test data, the gunners play the central role. They also recover the weapon systems and clean and maintain them before and after each test, paying special attention to the cannons and updating the tube cards to track the number of rounds fired. “Each tube has a life

expectancy, so it’s vital to keep good records,” Padilla explained. “Once a tube has fired so many rounds we must retire it for safety purposes.”

“Oftentimes, gunners are tasked to support the Systems Test Branch (STB) assisting with their armament testing. We help them out when it’s slow and, if we have a heavy workload, STB personnel support us.”

Padilla speaks highly of the men who call themselves gunners and says there is a strong sense of camaraderie among the crews. “What we do is important to the troops and I appreciate what the gunners before me did, because I served in the Gulf War as an artilleryman and I relied on their testing expertise to have the best equipment,” Padilla said with a smile. “Now we’re testing for our children and grandchildren and this gives us great job satisfaction. We know what we do improves equipment and saves lives.”



**Carlos Padilla signs off on the check list log, acknowledging that the radio has been checked and ready for the test scheduled for this particular day as well as other equipment necessary to conduct testing.**



**Carlos Padilla, crew lead (second from right), takes a photo with the gun crew. Left to right are Anthony Martinez, Ryan Montgomery, Pete Kunkel and Dustin Russell.**

# Managing crowded radio spectrum critical to mission success



YPG spectrum manager John Schifano (right) conducts a training seminar on the installation's radio spectrum request process. Test officers who need to use radar, telemetry or video to support their projects must submit spectrum requests weeks or months in advance, a process that is made easier by a new electronic form on YPG's intranet page. (Photos by Mark Schauer)

by Mark Schauer

Yuma Proving Ground's status as the Department of Defense's premier test and evaluation facility is greatly aided by its geographic isolation. Possessing over 1,300 square miles of range space, the proving ground can safely test virtually every piece of equipment used by Soldiers, even dangerous items like long-range artillery.

Although YPG does not have to contend with encroachment from houses and buildings, it is not exempt from the crowded radio spectrum that facilitates much of modern life. Every time you use a cell phone, microwave oven, or garage door opener you are using parts of the radio spectrum. This is the invisible resource that YPG testers rely on to support their highly specialized testing by using radar, telemetry, or video systems in everything from the evaluation of artillery rounds or UAVs to replicating the radio spectrum environment as it is in Iraq and Afghanistan to facilitate the testing of technologies to defeat roadside bombs. Maintaining these

unique capabilities without competing needs interfering with each other is only possible thanks to the careful management of the air waves by the spectrum management office (SMO), a small office with a large mission.

"Spectrum is a commodity everyone wants," said John Schifano, YPG's lead spectrum manager. "YPG has nearly 500 permanent radio frequencies and from one thousand to two-thousand temporarily assigned frequencies every month."

The spectrum management office's responsibilities are a bilateral affair: not only must they insulate important tests from electronic interference, they also make sure YPG's projects do not interfere with spectrum users within a 120 mile radius of the installation.

"We don't want to impact our neighbors," Schifano said. "We have to make sure we're good stewards by constantly monitoring the spectrum and coordinating spectrum requirements."

The SMO monitors spectrum using seven monitoring stations placed around YPG range areas, as well as a new mobile station in a large van

outfitted with two direction finding radio antennas and a bevy of computers for operation of the monitoring network. More important, though, is carefully assigning radio frequencies. Test officers who need to use radar, telemetry or video to support their projects must submit spectrum requests weeks or months in advance through YPG's Share Point intranet page, and all radios used on the YPG ranges must be certified by the U. S. Army Spectrum Manager. The frequency assignment process involves getting specific spectrum assignments from the National Telecommunications Information Administration (NTIA) through the Army spectrum management office.

When Schifano started in the office in the late 1980s, the radio spectrum was far less crowded and could be tracked with pen and paper. Today, employees use sophisticated equipment to monitor the radio spectrum in near real time, using the data to orchestrate the seamless use of electronic equipment by everyone on YPG who needs it. In rare instances where problems occur, the SMO responds rapidly.

"When a tester calls and says they are getting radio interference, (irrelevant and redundant) we hope to zero in on the problem in a matter of minutes with the new monitoring system called the Signal Acquisition System Network," Schifano said.

Usually, a Radio Frequency Interference (RFI) report is submitted to the SMO by YPG testers. The SMO takes the reports and calls other SMOs on known RFI issues which may contribute to the interference and can usually solve the problem. There are occasional exceptions to this, however. One time the SMO staff found a loose wire on a non-YPG owned antenna in Telegraph Pass was causing interference with YPG testing. Usually these problems can be addressed without registering a formal complaint with national spectrum authorities. But since radio spectrum isn't constrained by geographic boundaries, radio waves

originating from Mexico can cause interference, too. The FCC doesn't have jurisdiction across the border, said Schifano, but the agency's local office in San Diego has a cooperative rapport with their counterparts in the Mexican government to investigate such problems should they occur.

As spectrum management continues to become more sophisticated, the SMO is adapting to the fluid realities of their complex business. In addition to recent upgrades to their equipment and the acquisition of a new monitoring capability, the SMO also plans to hire two new employees in the near future, which will double staff size.

*Next Outpost  
deadline is  
noon  
September 2nd*

## Leave donation (Continued from page 2)

- Clara Zachgo, CRTC, pregnancy and childbirth

Any donation will be appreciated by the recipient. You can donate as little as one hour of annual leave or as much as one half of what you accrue in a leave year, although you must be able to use "use or lose" annual leave before the end of the leave year. (We're early enough in the leave year that this shouldn't be a problem.)

If you are interested in donating annual leave to your co-worker, just complete Optional Form 630-A and forward it to the CPAC. They'll see that the donation gets to the appropriate recipient.



A new radio van is among the recent equipment upgrades that benefits the spectrum management office. The mobile station is outfitted with two direction finding radio antennas and a bevy of computers for operation of YPG's spectrum monitoring network.

# Learning from history improves contracting today

by Yolie Canales

Annually at Yuma Proving Ground, hundreds of people are hired either as government employees or contractors. These individuals in-process through offices throughout the installation and attend a quarterly new-comers orientation where they learn about services and facilities at the proving ground.

During the orientation, a variety of speakers brief newcomers on what is available. One is Heritage Center Curator Bill Heidner, who explains that the heritage center is the museum of YPG where hundreds of photos, equipment, artifacts and information reside and are on display. He points out that most of the museum's visitors are winter vacationers who come to Yuma for the mild winter months. Many others are members of different organizations, local schools in Yuma and a few locals.

Recently hired Terry Boesch, team lead for YPG's contracting office, Mission and Installation Contracting Command (MICC.), coordinated a visit to the museum for his entire staff to include five members of the management team. "When I arrived at YPG in April, I visited the museum with my wife, Valentina," he explained. "We were so impressed with the briefing given by Heidner on YPG history that it sparked the idea to have young contract specialists in our office visit so they, too, could learn the history of YPG."

Boesch had originally planned to

have only his own team spend time with Heidner at the museum, but quickly, Ann Sanchez, the director of MICC, saw that this event would be great for the entire staff, so the entire team participated.

Boesch says contracting specialists have much to learn in a short amount of time and have to get it right the first time. "To do our jobs better we must see our work in a larger context," he said. "Every week, I read the Army Times and find even more things that our contracting office is doing to make history." In his experience, through both observation and study, he has seen that every time the government makes an error in contracting, it is because people do not know their history. History, he believes, repeats itself unless people change the causes of that history.

Jason House, contract specialist, said the he walked away after his day at the Heritage Center with a deeper understanding of what the "big picture" is at YPG. "It's an honor to be working for the government and being part of a great team supporting our war fighters. It means so much more when you are presented with the rich history and tradition from which our career developed," he said.

House also said that he had no previous idea how detailed the collection of information and exhibits were at the museum. "I definitely recommend this tour to new as well as older employees of YPG. It's a wealth of information and it is a great reminder of how things were, what worked, and



**Bill Heidner, Heritage Center curator, briefs members of the YPG Contracting Office on the history of the museum's collections. Contracting employees are left to right: Melissa Marquez, Curtis Arthur, Erik Nelson and Adrienne Egbers. (Photo by Mark Schauer)**

what didn't, not to mention, how 'we' continue to make history every day," he said. "To be honest, if this trip had not been organized, I probably would not have visited the museum."

"We had a great event. Our entire office participated and our employees were all dressed up and eager to hear and learn from Heidner on contract-

ing aspects of YPG's history," said Boesch. "He did a great job and put a lot of work into his briefing. I truly appreciate it."

Not only has the museum impressed Boesch, but also the director of the YPG library, who has helped

(See Museum tour on page 8)

## CRTC (Continued from page 1)

gions Test Center, the community's largest employer.

"We're a small town but have one of the best venues for this type of racing," said Sam Porter, a CRTC machinist who serves in his free time as the president of the Interior Mud Racing Association. "We are very organized and keep extremely accurate time."

The track at the Deltana Fair Grounds hosted its first race in 1991 and was constructed with funds donated by local and regional businesses. Since rural Delta Junction has no property taxes, this type of charitable giving is essential to the continued existence of the facility and competitions. Unfortunately, many of the venerable supporters have retired, leaving behind successors whose interest in the sport is less ardent. Fearful that the association would be unable to stage the race, in 2009 Porter and other mud bog devotees employed at CRTC approached the commander, Lt. Col. John Cavedo, with a proposal to lend CRTC equipment to prepare the race track that qualified CRTC volunteers would transport and operate. Cavedo approved the use of a generator, a bulldozer, and a grader, all essential for a safe competition.

"CRTC has been a continuous part of this community since 1949, and, as such, we try to give back whenever we can," said Cavedo. "The mud bog is a big draw at the fair and I was happy to help out."

Aside from being a crowd pleaser, the existence of the mud bog races is vital to maintaining the spirit of the sport. Each of the three annual Deltana competitions typically draw



**CRTC machinist Sam Porter (left) inspects a vehicle prior to a competition at this year's Deltana Regional Fair mud bog race. The competition is a major event at the fair, drawing large crowds to watch about 80 racers from around the state, and would not be possible without volunteer labor and loaned supplies from CRTC. (Photo by Mike Kingston)**

between 60 and 80 racers from all over the state, most of whom would be unable to compete in other organized venues. The sport of mud racing has grown dramatically from its humble origins as informal races between rigs built to negotiate the difficult summer terrain of rural Alaska's tundra, and major events draw upwards of 40,000 spectators cheering on vehicles sporting upgrades that easily cost more than an average working person's

yearly salary.

"We're interested in having a safe event where everyone can participate, not just wealthy people or those who have corporate sponsors," Porter said.

CRTC's participation at the fair didn't stop with the races. The installation entered a Small Unit Support Vehicle (SUS-V) and water truck in the vehicle parade, then used both as static displays at an official CRTC booth, along with an M1117 armored

security vehicle and a Mark 19 grenade launcher. All were big hits with fairgoers and the booth was manned the entire weekend by Cavedo, 1<sup>st</sup> Sgt. Randy Martin, Sgt. 1<sup>st</sup> Class Antuan Campbell, and Sgt. 1<sup>st</sup> Class John Schnering.

"People need to know we're part of the community," said Porter. "This kind of community involvement is extremely important in Delta Junction."

## Viewpoints

*Yuma residents love going to San Diego or Phoenix for a weekend getaway. We asked employees of Cold Regions Test Center, "What is a good weekend trip from CRTC?"*



**Toni Johnson, administrative officer:** It could be fishing in Angle Canyon, or a speed run to the Copper River to dip net salmon. A lot of people like to take their boat onto the Clearwater and fish for grayling from there. Fishing is extremely popular here: this is Alaska, so everywhere is a good fishing spot. In the winter or early spring, you can go ice fishing right here on Bolio Lake or Quartz Lake or Lost Lake.



**Mike Cassidy, heavy equipment operator:** If you're into fishing and hunting, you can hit Valdez. If it's winter and you have money, there is Chena Hot Springs, which is a beautiful place. I was there years ago, and in addition to the hot springs it has a nice hotel with gourmet food. I hunt and trap most weekends when it is season.



**Dave Trainor, allied trades lead:** I would say floating the Clearwater. You start out at the Clearwater landing and float the stream about 8 miles to the Clearwater Lake. It is a very peaceful river with good grayling fishing. I've done it many times with a canoe, and you can easily do it in an afternoon.



**Ellen Clark, environmental data analyst:** My husband and I for the last three years have gone over the border to the annual music festival in Dawson City. It is a three-day event with all different genres of music, mostly by Canadian artists. It takes place in July, which is an awesome time of year to travel, and Dawson City is only about 300 miles away.



**Dan Wozniczka, meteorologist:** I go to Valdez a few times every summer, but there are a number of different trips you can take to explore the state. We drove to Dead Horse during a long weekend last summer. Anchorage, Homer, and other coastal cities are within range, and Denali National Park is always a popular spot, especially if you have friends or family visiting from out of state. Alaska residents are eligible for a road lottery that allows you to take your personal vehicle all the way back into the park, which is about 90 miles, for one day in September. My wife and I won one year.



**1st Sgt. Randy Martin, NCOIC:** Going to Valdez. In Valdez you can get on a charter boat through MWR and go halibut fishing. It takes two hours from the harbor to get to the spot, and then you spend all day fishing. I've already done this once and it was really fun—we didn't catch any halibut, but did get some sea bass and red snapper. I'd have been pleased with the trip even if I hadn't caught anything—the drive from Delta Junction to Valdez is very scenic, with mountains, waterfalls and all kinds of wildlife.

## Community outreach:

# Keeping the promise together

by Lt. Gen. Rick Lynch

Our Soldiers have been steadfast in their service to the nation during the past nine years of conflict. Their families have been just as constant in their own dedicated service, providing the strength and support that enables Soldiers to do their jobs. Our Soldiers and families persevere in their service to the nation in the face of repeated deployments and even greater challenges.

It is heartening to know that we are not in this alone—our fellow citizens want to understand what we are experiencing and share a deep desire to support us where they can. Sometimes they simply do not know where to begin or how to make the connection to channel their appreciation and support into action. That is why reaching out to the communities around us is so vitally important.

The Army has a long history of supportive relationships with surrounding communities. San Antonio, Texas, claims the title of Military City, USA, but many more communities could lay equal claim, their ties with the installations in their areas being as long-standing and deep-rooted. Over the years the Army has also developed strong relationships with local, state and national organizations that provide a wide range of support for Soldiers and families, including programs focused on health care, education, child development, employment, financial aid, and morale and recreation.

Now those relationships are more critical than ever. The Army cannot always offer the most comprehensive assistance for the number and kinds of challenges that our Soldiers and families face. This is especially true for National Guard, active Reserve and Active Component Soldiers and families who live far from installations.

The great need for support and the great demand on our resources require us to reach out to those who can help us keep our promise to Soldiers and families. A volunteer, a local service provider or a state or national organization may be able to offer expertise, material assistance, support services, or even just human contact that fills a critical need, especially for the Soldier or family member who is not near an installation.

The support that communities and organizations give to Soldiers and families has become so important that the Army Community Covenant was launched in April 2008 to formalize and facilitate the relationships. To date, communities in 49 states, three territories and the District of Columbia, have conducted more than 500 covenant signing ceremonies, pledging to find ways to enhance the quality of life for Soldiers and families.

These ceremonies publicly recognize and celebrate the communities' commitments, but they are not an end in themselves. They are an important step in taking action to link support to specific Soldier and family needs. The crucial first step is building relationships.

Effective community outreach is broader than a covenant. It begins



Lt. Gen. Rick Lynch

with building strong, real relationships. Americans are inspired to offer their support when they learn more about military life and gain a deeper understanding of the personal challenges that Soldiers and families experience. It is crucial that Army leaders make every effort to get to know local leaders, to attend town halls, Chamber of Commerce meetings and other events, and to invite local leaders and community members to attend events on post. Army leaders must be prepared to answer when local leaders ask, "How can we help?" Americans are generous and compassionate—if you let them know how they can help, they will.

I know from firsthand experience what the power of community support can do for Soldiers and their families. One recent example is when I was the III Corps and Fort Hood commander and worked to establish a Resiliency Campus, which gathers in one area a number of programs to support Soldiers' and families' mental, spiritual and physical well-being. As senior commander I was able to dedicate the space on post and ensure that infrastructure improvements were made, but it was the embrace of the community outside the gate, their contributions of materials, services and expertise, that made the campus a reality.

We have several valuable resources to help Soldiers and families locate and access programs and services available to them. Army One Source (AOS), at [www.myarmyonesource.com](http://www.myarmyonesource.com), is a single portal for information on a wide range of services, including housing, healthcare, employment, education, childcare and family services. AOS includes information on how to contact the nearest Army community support coordinator. Community support coordinators work to make connections between local resources and Soldiers and families, especially for those who live far from an installation.

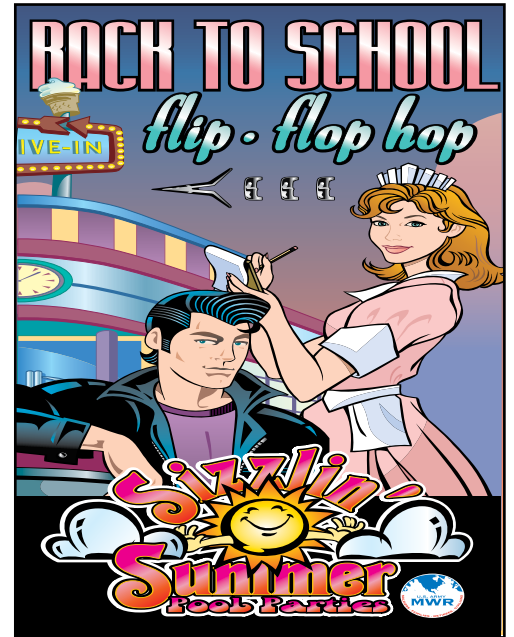
The Army Community Covenant website, at [www.army.mil/community](http://www.army.mil/community), has information on more than 600 national, state and local programs that offer education, employment, family, financial, survivor, wounded warrior and other kinds of support. The website regularly adds information on new programs as we continue to build relationships with local, state and national organizations. The site

(Community outreach on page 8)

# Family, Morale, Welfare & Recreation Happenings

## Spring into Fall with YPG Festive Fall

1. Movies in the Park: Bring the family and enjoy a movie under the stars
2. CYSS Halloween Haunted House: child, Youth & School Services presents this community favorite.
3. Oktoberfest: Put on your lederhosen and get your stein ready. Celebrate Fall the Bavarian way at YPG's first Oktoberfest.
4. Thanksgiving turkey draw: Coyote Lanes will be giving away Thanksgiving turkeys.
5. Thanksgiving dinner: Bring the family and join us at the Cactus Cafe for the traditional holiday feast with all the trimmings.
6. CYSS Fall Fun Fest: A YPG tradition. Bring the family and have some Fall fun.



## Sizzlin' Summer Pool Party

The summer certainly sizzled at YPG! Special thanks to the hundreds of guests who attended the Sizzlin' Summer pool party! From the dancers at the Splish Splash Luau Bash to the belly floppers at the Wet 'n' Wild West party, to the sounds of the 50's and root beer floats at the Flip Flop Hop. A great time was had by all. The Series wrapped up on August 14 with the "Back To School Flip Flop Hop" which was a blast from the past with the sounds of Yuma band, *Blues Persuasion*, a contest for the biggest splash and 50's costume were held. The event featured live entertainment, antique car show, contests, games, photo opportunities, swimming, and fun! Stay tuned for upcoming events from MWR!

## Software (Continued from page 2)

has been used on three different tests thus far, and Curry and Kenney hope to see more testing programs utilize the software in the future.

"This single program does everything that several individual pieces of software used to do, plus a little more," Kenney said. "We're moving away from doing things in analog mode and moving towards digital because analog equipment is becoming antiquated -- digital is the way of the future." We now have the capability of hand-scoring the first frame of a video segment and then using the software to automatically score the rest of the test, which saves time, he explained.

The capabilities of the newly developed software as yet unnamed are many and Curry and Kenney are always working on ways to improve it.

"Whether it's a mortar test, a tank firing or an airdrop, test engineers need to know how various parts are moving independently," Curry said. "Testers want to see how each part changes at different angles when it moves back and forth horizontally or vertically. This information is critical to the tester because he or she can go back and make comparisons of each firing."

For more information, contact Curry or Kenney at (928) 328-6176.

## Community outreach (Continued from page 7)

also has ideas and resources for Army leaders to reach out to the communities around them, and for community members and organizations who want to offer support.

All of these resources—the Army Community Covenant resources, the community support coordinators, the advice and ideas of fellow leaders posted on [www.garrisoncommand.com](http://www.garrisoncommand.com), and the expertise of professionals on installations—help Army leaders build and strengthen relationships with communities and find innovative ways to take care of Soldiers and families.

We have become more effective at our community outreach efforts in recent years, but our efforts meet with such success because our communities are eager to meet us halfway. They readily and generously express their gratitude and support for our Soldiers and Families. Our challenge is to meet them all the way, to clearly communicate our needs and facilitate their support for us. The support and contributions from our communities will enable us to keep our promise to provide Soldiers and Families a quality of life commensurate with their service.

## Contracting (Continued from page 6)

him find books on Army procurement through inter-library loan from other Army libraries. "Two of the greatest assets we have at YPG are Bill Heidner and Carol Cowperthwaite. Both individuals and places demand our attention and our support," he said.

Bosech, who used to work in contracting in the Special Operations Command serving the U.S. Navy Seals, is a political science graduate, holds a law degree, served in the Army in the Infantry and spent three years overseas in humanitarian work. He lives on post with his wife and three daughters.

## Hispanic Heritage Observance: Sept. 15 - Oct. 15

The YPG Hispanic committee is busy putting together another fantastic cultural awareness program for the workforce. Mark your calendars for the following dates:

**Sept. 12:** Religious services, Post Chapel at 9:30 a.m.

**Sept. 21st:** Cooking demo by Yolie Canales, Travel Camp, 11:30 a.m.

**Sept. 28th:** Salsa tasting contest, ROC Conference room, 11:30 a.m.

**Oct. 5:** Price Elementary School Hispanic Heritage poster contest

**Oct. 6:** Hispanic Luncheon. Guest speaker: Yuma County Superior Court Judge Maria Elena Cruz; YPG talent show includes: Folklore dancers, Vocalist: Alani Miller and Tom Coz, Latin Jazz music.

Tickets on sale for \$10. Will be announced via email.

For more information, call Yolie Canales at ext. 6143.