

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

YPG Website: www.yuma.army.mil

Volume 40, No.011 – November 8, 2010

Signing of customer covenant highlights visit

by Mark Schauer

About one hundred people participated in the signing of the Family, Morale, Welfare and Recreation (FMWR) customer covenant last week at the YPG Travel Camp Community Center. Among the special guests was Installation Management Command West regional director J. Randall Robinson, who thanked FMWR employees

for their hard work and dedication.

“The purpose of the customer covenant is to thank the employees and customers of FMWR for their support of our programs,” explained YPG garrison manager Rick Martin. “We’ve been very fortunate to assemble and retain a great FMWR team.”

From educational and social service agencies to organized sports and entertainment, FMWR is responsible

for virtually every community-oriented activity for the more than 500 people who call YPG home. The directorate’s more than 80 employees run over 20 different facilities, care for 75-80 children daily and serve over 1,000 meals per day.

“One of the reasons we have been so successful in our testing mission is that
(See Signing on page 3)



YPG Garrison Manager Rick Martin (left) and Family Morale Welfare and Recreation Director Garrett Smith sign the FMWR Customer Covenant as Installation Management Command West Region Director J. Randall Robinson (right) looks on. Behind the signers are recreation chief George LaBossiere, Non-Appropriated Funds chief Dale Devore, Family Support chief Mardy Clark and business operations chief Rick Bessette. (Photo by Mark Schauer)

YPG sets new workload record

by Mark Schauer

Yuma Test Center has once again set a new record for direct labor hours, accumulating 2.73 million hours in fiscal year 2010 to become the busiest test center in the Army’s Developmental Test Command.

The increase of over 400,000 direct labor hours from fiscal year 2009 was a result of higher workloads in all sectors of test and a dramatic escalation of testing in ground combat vehicles. Further, the feat was accomplished while scrupulously maintaining award-winning safety and test quality records.

“Prior to combat operations in Southwest Asia, we consistently performed between 1.2 million and 1.4 million direct labor hours per year,” explained Julio Dominguez, YPG’s technical director. “The record level of direct labor hours shows that YPG rose
(See Workload on page 3)



Whether conducting lot acceptance tests on mortars as seen here, putting thousands of punishing miles on the newest combat vehicles, or testing the latest in guided parachutes, Yuma Test Center’s workforce put in nearly 2.8 million direct labor hours in fiscal year 2010. The new record makes YTC the busiest test center in the Developmental Test Command. (Photo by Mark Schauer)

Safety is no accident



Command Sgt. Maj. Forbes Daniels stresses that it takes everyone to create a safe work environment.

submitted by YPG Command Sgt. Maj. Forbes Daniels

Our community and workplace are only as safe as we make them. It takes everyone engaged to create a safe operation environment in the workplace and at home. Safety is no accident; it is responsible people doing things responsibly.

Today, we are still experiencing a high volume of vehicle operators speeding on roads and placing themselves and others in danger. This is a risk not worth taking. Yuma Proving Ground is calling on everyone to step up and assist in making YPG the safest place to work and live. Next quarter, let’s encourage our neighbor, friends, and co-workers to reduce speeding violation to zero. Thanks to YPG residents for utilizing their garages and driveways for their intended purpose of parking vehicles. Your action certainly has been beneficial to everyone. We have seen a decrease in vehicles parked on the streets thus freeing up more room for service vehicles to operate freely and safely to an emergency to you or your neighbor’s residence.

Lost CAC cards have dramatically increased on YPG in recent months. We asked that everyone takes this
(See Safety on page 8)

News Notes

Voluntary Leave Transfer Program update

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 eleven employees on the VLTP recipient list:

- Howard Cart, Logistics, shoulder surgery
- Michelle Cruz, Yuma CPAC, complications during pregnancy
- Rosa Dayton, MWR, back surgery
- Lorraine Hernandez, Yuma NEC, providing emergency care for father
- Robert "Ski" Kolinsky, YTC, surgery from lumbo-sacral radiculopathy
- Teresa Lanham, CRTC, degenerative spinal issues
- Ursula Packham, YTC, birth of child
- Maribel Ruble, MICC (Contracting), complications during pregnancy
- Robert Trujillo, YTC, motorcycle accident and subsequent surgeries
- Jesse White, YTC, cancer surgery
- 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. 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.

Arizona Cardinal football game tickets

Yuma Proving Ground, Directorate of Family and Morale, Welfare and Recreation (DFMWR) has received a great ticket offer from the Arizona Cardinal organization for active duty personnel, family members and guests/friends. Tickets are for the terrace level which normally cost \$80 and are available for \$40 for the following games:

- November 14: Seattle Sea Hawks (Tickets must be purchased by noon, Nov. 4).
- December 5th: Saint Louis Ram's (Tickets must be purchased by, Nov. 23).
- December 12th: Denver Broncos (Tickets must be purchased by, Dec. 1).

Tickets can be purchased at the DFMWR Ticket and Information sales counter located in building 300 on the Main Administrative Area. The ticket counter is open from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday - Thursday (except holidays).

In addition, we can provide free transportation for military/family member groups of eight or more (guest based on space available) to all games. This is a great opportunity at a great price for units and military families.

Individual tickets can also be purchased if they wish to drive on their own.



Note: FMWR will collect the \$40 ticket price and provide a receipt. Once all prepaid purchases are received, FMWR will order the tickets and distribute several days prior to the game.

There is a limited number of seats per game and this offer is extended to all military organizations throughout Arizona. Please purchase your tickets ASAP. We are working on the administrative and logistical process since this is the first attempt. Please work with us on making this a very successful venture. We may open these tickets up to retired military and the civilian/contractor workforce if there is not a demand from the active duty segment on post.

For more information, call the Ticket and Information Office at 378-3714/2530. If you are interested in setting up a group event to include transportation, contact Steve Ward or George Labossiere at 328-2400.

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Traditions highlighted at Veterans Day breakfast

by Chuck Wullenjohn

The Cactus Café was filled to overflowing capacity November 4th as Veterans Day was commemorated with a special breakfast and thoughtful words from YPG Commander Col. Thomas Payne. Veterans Day is celebrated annually at the proving ground and tickets for this year's event were snapped up quickly.

According to Payne, tradition is at the core of Veterans Day. This tradition includes the military service of well over 40 million Americans since 1775 and emphasizes the selfless commitment they have given to the preservation of freedom.

"Veterans Day is not merely a 'day off' from work, off-roading in the sand dunes, or taking part in a sale at the mall," he said. "As a nation, we've prospered because we've always had citizens willing to stand up and answer the call in hours of need. Veterans Day reminds us what we can achieve when we pull together as one people, respecting each other and our individual differences."

Veterans Day was first observed in 1919 to commemorate the armistice ending World War I -- the war that was supposed to "end all wars." The holiday was broadened in 1954 to include veterans of all wars. In 1968, the Uniform Holiday bill established four annual three-day weekends by assigning the celebration of national holidays to a Monday, including Vet-



YPG Commander Col. Thomas Payne addresses breakfast attendees. (Photos by Mark Schauer)

erans Day, with the idea being to give workers three day weekends. The bill changed the dates on which holidays were celebrated -- the first Veterans Day under the new law occurred on October 25th rather than the traditional November 11th. Many were confused and many were unhappy.

"The conclusion to this story is rather refreshing," commented Payne, "for it shows that patriotism was more important than a three-day weekend." In 1975, a federal law restored Veterans Day to the date on which we celebrate it today, November 11th.

Col. Payne also recognized YPG's Soldier of the Quarter, Spc. Michael Roberts, and Non-Commissioned Officer of the Quarter, Sgt. Michael Hoffman, both of the YPG Health Clinic.



The Soldier and Non-Commissioned Officer of the Quarter were recognized at the YPG's Veterans Day Breakfast. From left, YPG Command Sgt. Maj. Forbes Daniels, YPG commander Col. Thomas Payne, NCO of the Quarter Sgt. Michael Hoffman, Soldier of the Quarter Spc. Michael Roberts, and Capt. Nickolas Pacella. Hoffman and Roberts are both Health Clinic medics.

Mailing deadline for holiday

The U.S. Postal Service announced that the recommended mailing deadline for sending economy-priced holiday packages to servicemembers in Afghanistan, Iraq and other places around the world is Nov. 12.

Other deadlines for arrival by Dec. 25 are Nov. 26 for space-available mail; Dec. 3 for parcel airlift mail; Dec. 10 for Priority Mail and First-Class Mail, letters and cards; and Dec. 18 for Express Mail Military Service.

Holiday packages and mail headed for Iraq and Afghanistan must be sent a week earlier than the deadlines above. For specific restrictions and mailing prices to an APO/FPO address, visit the Postal Service's online price calculator, <http://postcalc.usps.gov/>, or a local post office, or call 800-ASK-USPS.

Sexual Assault Hotline: 920-3104 or 328-3224
Report Domestic Violence: 328-2720 or 328-3224

IMCOM director (Continued from page 1)



From left, Child Development Center director Doreen Conner explains the center's Strong Beginnings program to RIST specialist Marnie Holder, YPG garrison manager Rick Martin, and IMCOM West director J. Randall Robinson during a tour of the facility. (Photos by Mark Schauer)

personnel aren't worried about their children," said Martin. "When we take care of families and children with quality, engaging programs during the workday, parents can concentrate on the critical work at hand."

The garrison as a whole is responsible for such critical things as security and public works and found Robinson's two-day visit to be quite productive.

"It gave us an opportunity to show what we're doing at YPG and also get a perspective of best practices at other installations in the western United States," said Martin. "Our mission is to support the installation's commander and the community of people who call YPG home, and we welcome input toward those ends."

During his visit, Robinson met with department directors from all areas of the garrison and discussed future flood control projects with the Department of Public Works. He also saw several recent and ongoing construction projects that have taken place since his last visit, including the remodeling of quarters for unaccompanied uniformed personnel, the new Desert Oasis Community Center, and the \$5 million, installation-wide walkway project.

"Every time I come here I see vast improvements," said Robinson. "It's amazing how the workforce and leadership strive to improve upon the various services for Soldiers, family members and the great civilians that make up Yuma Proving Ground."



IMCOM West director J. Randall Robinson (left) greets YPG travel camp employee Diana Mercer in the FMWR employee red carpet receiving line.

Workload (Continued from page 1)

to the occasion and met the demands of supporting the warfighter. We did it and we did it well."

"None of this could have been done without the tireless efforts and dedication of our civilian workforce," added Yuma Test Center Commander Lt. Col. Stephen Milton. "More importantly, any time you have increased pace and volume you have increased risks. That we held the line on safety is a testament to the men and women who have kept this risk manageable. Their efforts are unprecedented and paramount to the success of our mission."

Ground Combat

The substantial increase in workload at the Combat Automotive Division of the Ground Combat Systems Directorate epitomizes the magnitude of YPG's growth. The division piled up over one million direct labor hours in fiscal year 2010, a volume that nearly equals the entire average pre-war level of Yuma Test Center as a whole. The division also saw the largest escalation in workload of YTC's three divisions during the year.

"The automotive mission saw about a 33 percent increase in workload," said director Larry Bracamonte. "There are many ongoing rapid fielding initiatives for the war effort."

The increase was a result of continuing tests on the M1A2 Abrams tank, Bradley Fighting Vehicle and variants of the Mine Resistant Ambush Protected (MRAP) vehicle, as well as initial competitive tests of the Joint Lightweight Tactical Vehicle (JLTV), which may ultimately replace the High Mobility Multipurpose Wheeled Vehicle (Humvee). During the year it wasn't unusual to see many MRAP variants undergoing road tests simultaneously. More rewarding to the division's testers than the labor hour record, however, are the more than 350 test and safety recommendation reports they compiled.

"We've provided a great deal of improvement guidance for equipment used by Soldiers in the field," said Combat Automotive Division Chief Zach El-Ansari. "We're more proud of that than anything else. We care about quality, not quantity."

"The million labor hours is just a number," added Automotive Systems Branch Chief Dean Shimizu. "I think everyone gets more satisfaction from the variables they find when subjecting the vehicles to the kind of terrain found in Afghanistan."

To cope with the increased workload, it was necessary for the division to hire 14 engineers, 29 drivers, and 20 data collectors.

The testing mission is increasingly busy in all directorate divisions. Bracamonte said the Munitions and Weapons division saw a modest increase in labor hours driven by continued production acceptance testing of the M777 155mm howitzer and the M119 105mm howitzer, as well as lot acceptance tests of a variety of mortar shells and artillery cartridges.

"We're not here to set records; we're here to do a job," said Bracamonte. "The labor hours are the labor hours. We'll do whatever it takes to ensure our Soldiers' safety."

Air Combat

The Air Combat Systems Test Directorate, which includes the aviation and air delivery branches, racked up over 400,000 direct labor hours in fis-

cal year 2010, largely on the strength of testing such items as the Apache Block III helicopter and the Joint Precision Air Drop System (JPADS).

"In three years the aviation branch has doubled its workload, and this past year was the highest workload on record for the air delivery branch," observed director Grant Ware. "We face the same challenges as the other directorates in managing resources, overtime and safety."

Air delivery also set a branch record for the number of airdrops conducted, increasing 33 percent over the previous year to 1,386. Ware believes that testing of JPADS and the Block III Apache will continue for years to come, and expects that testing in unmanned aerial systems will become an even stronger generator of workload. He also believes that the increasing sophistication of sensors will keep testers busy.

"In some fashion, sensors are responsible for 90 percent of the aviation branch's workload," said Ware. "We expect to see that continue for some time to come. If the work is out there, we will get it, for our customers know we're good at what we do."

NACCITEC

The National Counterterrorism Counterinsurgency Test and Evaluation Center (NACCITEC) saw a 10 percent increase in labor hours, increasing from 608,578 in 2009 to 674,436 in 2010.

"It is an increase in workload with the existing workforce," said NACCITEC Director Greg Mitchell. "Over the past year we've seen a significant increase in customers wanting to be part of the YTC test experience. They realize this is the place to go if you want to test your technology with a solid team that supports customers and is well acquainted with what it takes to get a system through a developmental test."

Mitchell said that much of the increase in labor hours can be attributed to transitioning theater support activities from Iraq to Afghanistan. YPG remains the premier test location for counter-improvised explosive device technology, a dangerous mission that requires extra caution to conduct tests safely.

"It's always a challenge when you're working harder and longer to do more while sustaining the 'no one gets hurt' philosophy," Mitchell said. "We need to make sure we keep doing this, however."

Future

YPG's senior officials anticipate that fiscal year 2011 will also have a robust workload as customers continue seeking out the proving ground for its technical expertise, highly instrumented ranges, and customer-focused culture.

"YPG is unique in that there aren't too many layers of management," said Milton. "Every YPG manager is very close to their customers, and that is a benefit."

"The Army should be proud of its test centers as a whole," added Dominguez. "There has been a very collaborative effort between test centers on numerous projects, including tests on the MRAP. It is really nice to see that."

Successful artillery testing requires tear

From the jungles of Vietnam to the mountains of Afgha

by Mark Schauer

From Napoleon Bonaparte to George S. Patton, renowned generals of the past proved that field artillery is one of the most important contributors to battlefield success. For more than 40 years, variants of the M109 Paladin have been the most potent self-propelled howitzers in the Army's arsenal, able to rapidly deliver a punishing barrage of steel downrange across a wide radius of the battlefield, from the jungles of Vietnam to the rugged mountains of Afghanistan.

Yuma Proving Ground tests virtually every piece of equipment in the ground combat arsenal, yet the evaluation of artillery and ground combat vehicles are particularly large components of the installation's workload. YPG has a significant number of engineers and support staff with years of experience in each. Whenever necessary, they are adept at cooperative testing, which is invaluable in testing platforms that combine both areas of expertise, such as the M109, on which troops depend for both mobility and firepower.

The M109A6 Paladin is currently undergoing reconditioning testing at YPG to verify that the improved platforms are up to specifications before being deployed overseas. At the same time, testers in the Munitions and Weapons division and the Ground Combat Automotive directorate are gearing up to conduct the Paladin Integrated Management (PIM) project, a massive effort that will give the Paladin an extensive internal makeover.

"The M109A6 testing is almost like a dress rehearsal for the PIM

testing," said Tony Carroll, a tester in the ground combat directorate. "We now have a point of reference for comparison."

Testing

Since first being fielded during the Vietnam era, the Paladin has undergone six major changes, all of which were tested at Yuma Proving Ground. Over the years, the cannon's range has been doubled, the stowage space for artillery shells has been increased and sophisticated digital communications, fire control and navigation systems were added. All of these improvements required the kind of rigorous testing that continues today.

When a Paladin arrives at the proving ground for testing, it is immediately fired close to 450 times, aiming at various angles and elevations to ensure accuracy and performance. The firing tests are not meant as gentle use, but to simulate the kind of operation Soldiers will likely depend on for survival.

"During the expenditure phase we pound the heck out of the gun by firing 300 rounds at top zone usually temperatures conditioned to 145°F," said artillery test officer Mike Sust. The first firing phase is then completed when we establish baseline performance by firing 145 accuracy rounds."

Once this arduous task is completed, the Paladin is driven for 1000 miles across Yuma Proving Ground's punishing road courses, intermittently conducting firing missions, all while sophisticated instrumentation monitors the vehicle's internal components. Also during this rugged testing, the Paladin is subjected to numerous other challenges, from a ride on a massive tilt table to driving over



All Paladins tested at YPG are subjected to 1,000 fired rounds, and are frequently grades on the existing M109A6 as a "dress rehearsal" for the Paladin Integrated Management (PIM) program. (Loaned photo)

steps and narrow trenches. Among other things, the vehicle is expected to climb up a steep 60 percent grade without stalling and to remain virtually watertight even when sitting in three-and-a-half feet of water for 15 minutes. All mechanical problems and even minor irregularities like a slightly elevated engine tempera-

ture or oil pressure are meticulously recorded.

"The core of our testing is to examine system reliability," explained Kermit Okamura, a tester in the ground combat directorate. "If a system breaks down frequently, its other capabilities are meaningless."

At this point, munitions and weapons testers do a second set of accuracy firings, followed by a repetition of the aforementioned 1000 mile regimen. Lastly, the weapon is fired a final 445 times so testers can look for degradation of the gun's accuracy. The typical battery of tests, 1000 fired rounds and 2000 desert miles driven, takes between nine months and one year to complete. If everything checks out in a final comprehensive inspection at the conclusion of the tests, the platform is oftentimes deployed directly overseas.

While the similarity of Yuma Proving Ground's terrain to that of Iraq and Afghanistan is a major reason for testing the Paladin here, the presence of skilled mechanics capable of rapidly repairing combat vehicles in large, modern facilities is an additional draw.

"We've done depot-level repairs here," said Carroll. "That level of work requires an enormous amount of skill."

PIM

Though the M109A6 is expected to play an integral role in Army artillery for many years, it will serve alongside the Paladin variant resulting from major upgrades made by the PIM program.

"This test has been almost two years in the making," added Carroll. "It is meant to overcome the burden of obsolescent parts."

The chassis and cab on the new



Soldiers need their self-propelled howitzers to be rugged and ready, no matter what. The M109A6 Paladin is expected to remain virtually watertight even when sitting in three-and-a-half feet of water for 15 minutes, a scenario that testers evaluate in YPG's fording basin. (Loaned photo)

Network at Yuma Proving Ground

in Afghanistan, field artillery contributes to battlefield success



Paladin will be completely redesigned to integrate most of the drive train and engine from the existing Bradley fighting vehicle, which will allow the interchangeability of parts. The Paladin lacks sufficient room in its engine compartment to house the same cooling system as the Bradley, but the two systems will utilize the same suspension system. The PIM will also have a wider stance than the current Paladin, giving it additional stability. More excitingly, the new Paladin will have several

components transplanted from former Future Combat Systems vehicles like the Non-Line of Sight cannon (NLOS-C). Most notably, virtually all components of the Paladin that were hydraulic will now be electrical, including the cab and the ammunition rammer. The generator will produce a whopping 600 volts of direct current, a comparable amount of power to that which runs New York City's subway cars. The PIM also has a bi-directional converter allowing some existing equipment requiring 28 volts to still operate in the PIM. In comparison, the M109A6 has a 28 volt electrical system, while the average passenger car's is 12 volts.

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Firepower is only half of the story with the Paladin, and YPG testers subject the platform to more than 2,000 miles of rugged mobility testing during its stay. YPG's flexibility in testing complex platforms that require interdepartmental cooperation makes the proving ground stand out as a premier testing center. (Loaned photo)

“This is the first time we’ve worked with a system that generates that much electricity,” said Sust. “There is extensive training that must be completed before an employee can even get within 10 feet of this system. With that much power you must stay alert and maintain professionalism to ensure safety at all times.”

The NLOS-C also had a 600 volt electrical system, but was never test fired with a crew inside. The PIM platform will be in preparation for the eventual limited user test involving Soldiers that will likely be conducted at YPG. Both will utilize a test fire range that was specifically constructed to support realistic tests of ‘shoot and scoot’ missions, where Soldiers fire a volley of artillery shells, then quickly move to a different location lest they be the victims of return fire from the enemy, which can utilize trajectories of the incoming shells to zero in on the Paladin’s former position. This same firing/maneuver area formerly supported testing of the Crusader and NLOS-C systems, and boasts facilities that can support the test firing of two PIM vehicles simultaneously.

“We’re excited to see something that can utilize these gun positions,” said Sust. “The close proximity of the maneuver area and the gun positions were built especially for this type of operation.”

Cooperation

YPG’s flexibility in testing all kinds of equipment, even complex pieces that require interdepartmental cooperation, makes the proving ground stand out as a premier testing center, a distinction that will serve it well into the distant future.

Cooperation

“This is the Army’s main test facility for artillery and it’s convenient to do mobility testing at the same location,” said Sust. “This makes for a test that’s realistic for all testers involved, plus, it helps ensure a better final product.” That final product, he said, will help save American lives and bring about success on future battlefields.

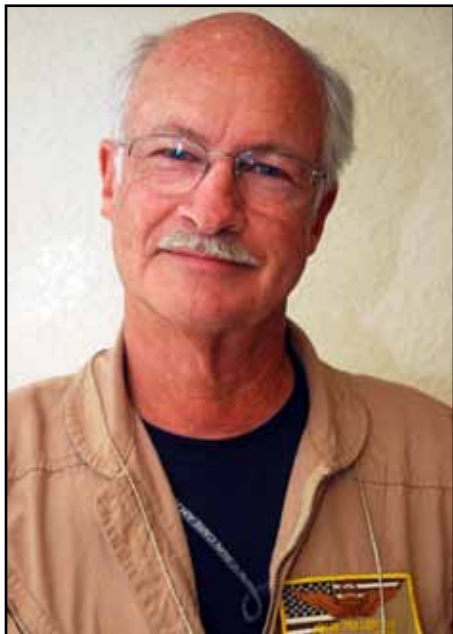
When a Paladin arrives at the proving ground for testing, it is immediately fired close to 450 times to ensure accuracy and performance. The firing simulates the kind of extreme use Soldiers may depend on for survival, and YPG gunners, like those seen here, load the heavy 155 millimeter cartridges safely and rapidly. (Photo by Mark Schauer)



When a Paladin arrives at the proving ground for testing, it is immediately fired close to 450 times to ensure accuracy and performance. The firing simulates the kind of extreme use Soldiers may depend on for survival, and YPG gunners, like those seen here, load the heavy 155 millimeter cartridges safely and rapidly. (Photo by Mark Schauer)

Viewpoints

In honor of Veteran's Day, November 11th, do you have a special Soldier or serviceman or woman you wish to recognize?



John Fullerton, pilot, SEAIR: I would certainly like to recognize my son, Capt. Doug Fullerton, who is the headquarters company commander for Task Force ODEN in Afghanistan, an Army Intelligence Unit. This is his second tour overseas and his wife, mother, and I, are standing by to pin on his major oak leaves and I'm very proud of him. He is also a 2001 West Point graduate and a graduate of flight school.



Andrew Habegger, data analyst, NACCITEC: Yes, my good friend Sgt. Steve Pope has been to Iraq and Afghanistan on multiple tours and is serving our country at this time. He and his family have sacrificed a lot to defend our freedom. I really appreciate him and each time I speak to him, I am reminded of the importance of our jobs and the mission we carry out here at YPG.



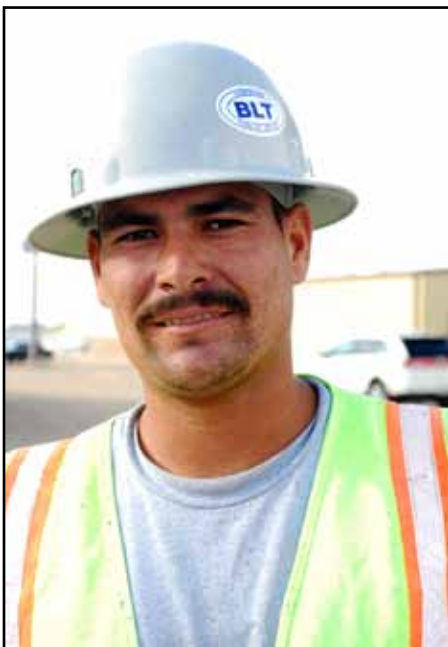
Janet Hamby, clerk, YPG Visitor's Center: I would like to recognize my stepson, Marcus Hamby, who is a non-commissioned officer for the Brigade Training Assessment Team at Fort Sill, Okla. I want to thank him and all Soldiers for what they have done for our country and for their many sacrifices.



Daniel McDonald, CW3, TRADOC Proponentcy Office, Fort Sill, Okla: I would to recognize my father, Command Sgt. Maj. (retired) Daniel McDonald, who served the Army for 34 years. I always looked up to my father and wanted to be like him. I guess you could say I'm following in his footsteps.



George Rash, mechanical engineer, NACCITEC: I would like to recognize my last brigade commander, Col. William Rapp, who is now a brigadier general and was the brigade commander of the 555th Combat Service Brigade from Fort Lewis, Wash. He was the most inspirational leader I encountered in the Army and hands down, the best commander I ever worked for. This man knew and understood people and could deal with any issue that arose. He also worked great under pressure and his Soldiers came first, but he also knew how to delegate responsibility. His famous saying was, "if this command can't run without me, then I'm not doing my job."



Jose Jorge Rodriguez, concrete finisher, Morgan Concrete: Many of my friends have brothers serving in different branches of the service and stationed all over the world. I'm from Ensenada, Mexico, and have been residing in the United States for 10 years. I am very grateful for all the veterans who serve and have served this country and I recognize each one of them with great respect. I believe it is right in what they are doing and a good thing they are defending this country.



Wayne Schilders, chief, Weapons Operations Division: I would like to give recognition to my son, Sam, who is an E-4 in the Coast Guard serving on an ice breaker in Seattle, Wash. He's on a ship that breaks through ice and has scientists on board conducting tests, studying animal migrations, ocean currents and other interesting things. I'm proud of him because of the service he provides and because they conduct a lot of drug interdiction work and assist with scientific missions in the Antarctic.



Susan Arguelles, administrative assistant, SEAIR: I have more than one person who I would like to recognize. First my husband, Jose Arguelles, who served 21 years in the Army, second, my son, Jose, who served five years active in the Navy, and is currently serving in his ninth year with the reserves. The third person is my son, Steve, who graduated from the Coast Guard Academy in May of this year and is currently serving in Honolulu, Hawaii. The fourth person is my son-in-law, Danny, who is in his sixth year with the Marine Corps, and presently in Okinawa, Japan. And lastly, my daughter Vanessa, who is currently in the ROTC program at Arizona State University. She will join the ranks with the rest of the family in the near future. They are all serving their country with pride and stand by what they believe in. The military has been good to our family.

Saving energy begins at local level

by Larry M. Leake

Every year the month of October is globally recognized as Energy Awareness Month. This year's Energy Awareness Month theme, "Powering America; We're on Target," identifies the need to continue aiming at energy targets to lower operating expenses, reduce greenhouse gas emissions, and develop cost-effective and sustainable energy resources while maintaining our high mission readiness.

Like any other federal institution, the Army is mandated by a myriad of government policies to reduce its energy consumption while sustaining its mission.

The Army operates in a domestic and world energy situation that is highly uncertain. To chart an effective and viable path for its energy and water future, the Army must consider developing enduring energy policies for its installations. The Army vision is to ensure secure, efficient, reliable, sustainable and cost effective energy and water services for installations. Development of new technologies and increased efficiencies will not likely fully offset the increasing energy use. The best option for meeting future energy challenges is Army wide participation in efficient use of energy and prevention of energy waste.

There is a widespread belief at the installation level that with the limited financial resources for new technologies and with the increased operational requirements, energy reduction is progressively more challenging. The garrison needs your help to maintain the legislated energy reduction goals.

Be an energy champion

Studies have shown that people are more likely to engage in long-term behavioral change when their neighbors and friends also engage in the behavior. Such cultures can serve as excellent tools for energy conservation across the base.

Similarly, studies showed competition among similar groups improved workplace performance. The culture of competition that is ingrained into the military should be tapped into for our energy conservation efforts.

Members of the community can be energy champions. Practice energy conservation rules in your living and working environment and tell us about it. There are many incentive programs within federal government aimed at rewarding individual or group initiatives, like the U.S. Department of Energy Award, Secretary of the Army Award, and Army Ideas for

Excellence Program.

No-cost energy savers

There are many simple no-cost, common sense measures every individual can take to conserve energy. Doing a little saves a lot, especially when the change becomes habitual. Leaving lights on in unoccupied facilities wastes energy, especially in maintenance facilities and motor pools with high intensity lighting. Turn off those large electricity consuming lights when not performing maintenance work. Use daylight whenever possible. Leaving doors and windows open while the air conditioning is on also wastes energy. Ensure all doors are closed during hot months of the year.

YPG has already taken several steps to increase awareness and provide solutions for conserving energy. There currently are two photovoltaic arrays and a solar sunshade at the Yuma Test Center and one photovoltaic array on the Main Administrative Area. These solar projects have been in place for several years and provide power to the YPG electrical distribution system.

YPG has had several other projects completed within the last year which will help save energy. At the gymnasium, we replaced the 1000 watt High Intensity Discharge, Metal Halide lighting with more efficient linear fluorescent high bay fixtures. We have replaced the weather stripping on the doors to various buildings throughout YPG. We have also installed building and lighting controllers in various buildings throughout YPG. These projects, combined with the YPG community's conservation consciousness and business practice changes has paid off. After seven years of increasing usage, YPG's energy consumption decreased during FY 10.

YPG will be developing future projects to help further reduce our energy consumption. We will look into installing more building and lighting controls, advanced electrical and water meters, prismatic day lighting in maintenance buildings, geothermal (ground source) chiller plants to service multiple buildings and additional photovoltaic arrays. Additionally, we will continue to replace older equipment with Energy Star equipment and develop operational guidelines and policies which should lead to further energy savings.

For more information on simple actions to take to save energy at work or around the home, go to www.energysavers.gov and www.eere.energy.gov/informationcenter.

Ammunition planner honored as civilian of quarter

by Yolie Canales

Anthony Gingras, ammunition planner for the Ammunition Management Division (AMD), was recently selected for the dual honor of being Yuma Proving Ground's and Yuma Test Center's civilian of the 4th quarter. He was recognized for his outstanding support of multiple programs used by the division to support testing.

As Black Belt Candidate of the Lean Six Sigma program examining YPG's munitions change order requests process, Gingras provided oversight to incorporate new forms and procedures, and retain the ammunition change request efficiency and historical documentation enhancements gained from the project. In addition, he played a vital role in the division's transition to the Standard Army Ammunition System—Modernization Ammunition Management Information System. He spent countless hours learning the new system, working with information technology experts and training other personnel who contributed greatly toward making the conversion as seamless as possible.

Gingras, who has been at YPG since November 2003, coordinates timely delivery of ammunition items for test programs with test officers and a number of other offices, from AMD's Stock Control Section to TRAX Test Services support personnel in the Ammunition Logistics and Storage branch. His ability to manage several often complex programs simultaneously is noteworthy.



Anthony Gingras, YPG and YTC's Civilian of the 4th Quarter. (YPG photo)

"It's a privilege to be part of an organization such as Yuma Proving Ground," said Gingras. "It's an honor to be recognized out of so many outstanding individuals."

Gingras, who resides with his family in Yuma, is currently pursuing a Masters degree in Administration with an emphasis in Project Management at Northern Arizona University. He selected his degree and emphasis area because of its close relation to his career goals and current duties as a planner for the Ammunition Management Division and a certified Lean Six Sigma Black Belt.

Former government employee guilty of fraud

by Mary F. Flores

Army installations throughout the nation closed in the past decade due to base realignment and closure decisions, which meant hundreds of worker's compensation cases were distributed to personnel officials at other installations for processing. Yuma Proving Ground received its fair share but, according to YPG Human Resources Specialist Patty Nabozny, one resulted in a court determination of fraud.

"Although I didn't initiate this case, I received an anonymous notification that a claimant had outside employment while receiving benefits, though the original claim was for total disability," said Nabozny. "This employee established a company and had a website advertising the business, which I confirmed."

After working nearly four years with the Army Criminal Investigation Division (ACID), Nabozny helped bring the former employee to justice. She spent countless hours verifying and providing information to the ACID. The eventual result was that charges were filed against the employee who later admitted guilt.

"The fraudulent claim was filed in 1990 and, over the years, this employee received nearly \$700,000," Nabozny said. "Formal sentencing is scheduled for January 2011. The penalty will be decided at a minimum of \$100,000 restitution with, possibly, one year incarceration." By stopping the payment of compensation on this fraudulent case, we estimate a cost avoidance of \$330,000 in addition to the restitution."

Nabozny handles hundreds of workers compensation cases from former and current Army employees, monitoring the status of each claimant and case. She reviews each employee's case status to see if he or she can be re-employed and is physically capable, with proper skills, to remain employed. If an employee is reassigned to another job, he or she is accommodated for their medical condition.

To be eligible for workers compensation benefits, an employee must have

(See Fraud on page 8)

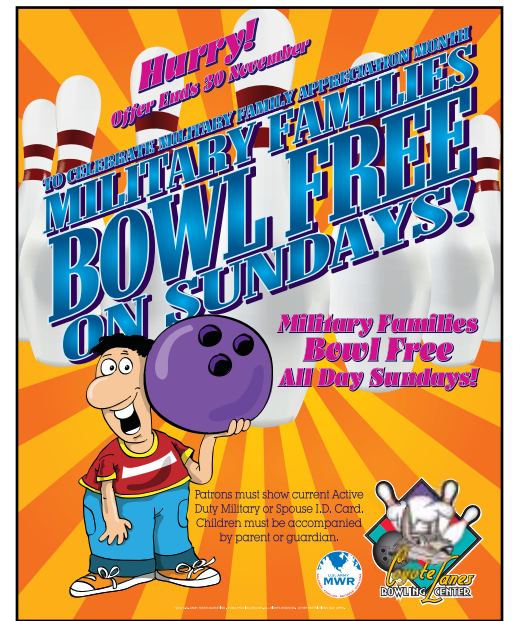
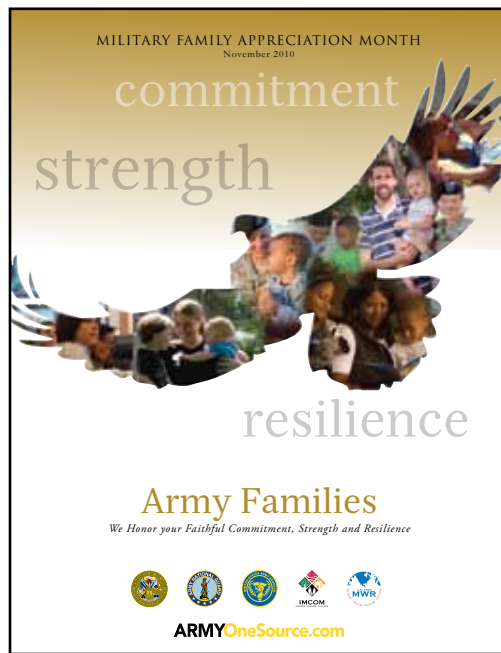
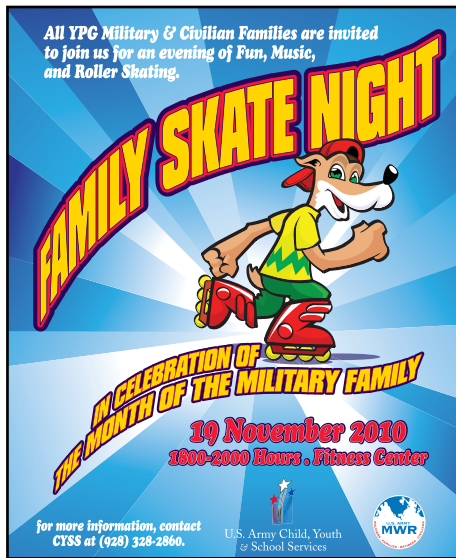
4th annual Cibola Junior Waterfowl Camp

Arizona Game and Fish Department in partnership with Cibola National Wildlife Refuge and Ducks Unlimited, will be hosting the 4th annual Cibola Junior Waterfowl Camp, December 10 through 12. Cost is \$40. Volunteers are needed.

There are 40 spots offered to junior hunters on a first come, first served registration process. The junior hunters will be participating in waterfowl hunting under the supervision of experienced and qualified hunters to include other fun activities. Prizes will be given away to the registered junior hunters. Meals will be provided at no cost throughout the weekend.

For more information, call Courtney Shanley, wildlife manager, Cibola National Wildlife Refuge at 760-922-3246.

Family, Morale, Welfare and Recreation Happenings



Safety (Continued from page 1)

very seriously and clearly understand that a lost CAC card, poses a security risk to this installation. These lost cards potentially give access to someone who would not normally have access to our installation and facilities. A lost CAC card is a potential security risk to everyone that lives and works on YPG. Let's do a better job at securing them in the future. Too many individuals are losing their CAC cards with no consequence or regard. *Let's be more responsible with these cards.*

We are seeing more and more leaders engaged in creating a safe workplace and enforcing the YPG safety policy. We have observed that YPG workers are teaming up to lift heavy objects in order to eliminate injuries and reduce vehicle accidents in the workplace. Vehicle operators are stopping and pulling off to the side of the road to respond to cell phones and drivers and all occupants are wearing seat belts. These are all good practices and a sign of ordinary people doing responsible things.

Today we are able to go home to our families and friends because we chose to operate our vehicle and conduct business safely. We must continue to play smart as we move forward in enhancing our "YPG safety culture." Let's continue to do the same tomorrow, and every day after.

Ask yourself:

- Are we doing the right thing?
- Are we doing things right?
- What are we missing?

Winter safety tips:

- Get your car serviced now.
- Check for leaks.
- Check tire pressure (properly inflated).
- Get your battery checked for sufficient voltage.
- Check your cooling system (When was the last time you flushed the coolant.)
- Check your windshield wiper and defroster.
- Don't rush to your destination, allow plenty of time to get there safely.
- Check road and weather conditions before long travel, and plan accordingly. Drive to arrive.

Next Outpost deadline is noon
November 10th

Fraud (Continued from page 7)

a medical condition that arose from employment such as an occupational disease or suffered a traumatic injury while performing his/her duties. Each worker's compensation case is adjudicated through the Department of Labor and compensation is payable for wage loss which is tax free for employees.

"If a workers compensation claim is approved, all medical bills for the employee are paid, however, the bill gets charged back to the Army, so the Army pays in the end," Nabozny explained. "Whenever a federal civilian gets hurt at YPG, a case is opened and filed, but it could take years to be resolved."

A medical and/or disability retirement differs from a worker's compensation claim, in that it is adjudicated through the Office of Personnel Management and represents the employee's earned retirement benefits. If an employee is totally disabled and cannot work and receives workers compensation, they are advised by CPAC to file a claim for disability retirement.

"If an employee is injured on the job, they should seek medical attention first and notify their supervisor as well," Nabozny said. "Medical attention is first and we can always do the paperwork at a later time."

For more information regarding a worker's compensation claim, contact Nabozny at (928) 327-2211, Monday through Thursday, 6 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Her office is located in building 2100, room 36. YPG's Civilian Personnel Advisory Center typically opens an average of 50 to 100 new workers compensation or medical/disability retirement cases per year.

YPG Worker's Compensation Claims Statistics for FY08-FY10

Fiscal Year	Medical cost	Compensation cost	Total cost
FY 2008	\$224,663.74	\$635,604.96	\$860,268.70
FY 2009	\$264,016.07	\$622,122.05	\$909,118.09
FY 2010	\$194,052.49	\$515,500.72	\$709,553.21

Free World War II Era Canteen Dance

Dance the night away with music from the past to the present!
When: November 20 & 21
Where: Hilton Garden Inn (Pivot Point)
Time: 7 p.m. to 11:45 p.m.
Theme: USO tradition
Cost: No charge to active duty military and retired personnel with ID. Military uniforms or 1940s dress is encouraged.
Contact name: Cathy Nelson at 345-1520.