

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.009 – October 12, 2010

Rugged jungle of Suriname attracts testers

by Mark Schauer

Tropical environments are arguably the most brutal in which military equipment is expected to perform: insects can quickly eat through fabrics, heavy forest canopies can conceivably prevent night vision goggles from gathering enough light to function, extreme rainfall and humidity can rapidly corrode metallic parts, and jungle biomass can clog wheels and tracks. The latter two are of crucial importance to developers of combat vehicles, who turn to the U.S. Army Tropic Regions Test Center (TRTC) to put their products through punishing testing.

Unlike the other two test centers over which YPG has jurisdiction,

TRTC owns no land and conducts most of its operations in foreign countries. While personal diplomacy and TRTC's long track record in central and South America go a long way in garnering support for test projects, political instability can shutter test operations on leased lands.

A leased test facility that TRTC has formerly used in Honduras, for example, has been dormant since a 2009 constitutional crisis in that country. Though most of TRTC's test activities occur in Panama, that nation's government has strict laws prohibiting armed vehicles from being imported into their country. As such, TRTC personnel have looked to the South American nation of Suriname

(See Suriname on page 4)



Though the newly leased Suriname property is easier to access than the previous location used by Tropic Regions Test Center testers in 2008, the test trail itself is just as rigorous and punishing. Here, YPG Commander Col. Thomas Payne negotiates the muddy track on an all-terrain vehicle, with YPG Command Sgt. Maj. Forbes Daniels and TRTC director Ernie Hugh close behind. (Loaned photo)

YPG firefighters muster for fun



Yuma Proving Ground firefighters Carlos Teran and Wade Garcia compete in the "barrel squirt" event in the recent firefighters muster event in San Luis, Ariz. (Photos by Gerald Ball)

by Mary F. Flores

Kicking off Fire Prevention Week, October 3-9, two dozen teams of firefighters from throughout the area gathered in San Luis to compete against each other using firefighting techniques dating back to the 1800s. Yuma Proving Ground's firefighters formed one team to join in the annual demonstration of firefighting skill and

good old fun. They went up against others in events such as a hose cart race, bucket brigade, barrel squirt, and fire truck pull. Hundreds of spectators gathered to watch the fun.

"Although we didn't bring home any awards this year, YPG firefighters enjoyed participating in the muster and representing the community," said YPG assistant fire chief Jerry Ball. (See Muster on page 8)

Safety extend beyond IMCOM boundaries

by Lt. Gen. Rick Lynch

As Commanding General of IMCOM, the Assistant Chief of Staff for Installation Management and the co-chair of the Services and Infrastructure Core Enterprise, my installation management and safety responsibilities extend beyond the boundaries of IMCOM. My commander's intent is to provide the facilities, programs and services required to support Army readiness, sustain the all-volunteer force and provide the infrastructure for current and future mission requirements. Safety is key to accomplishing my intent. It

involves the prevention of material loss, but the focus is really on saving lives. Each loss, whether in combat or in the garrison, has an impact on our force.

In September, I spoke at the Army Senior Safety Tactical Symposium. It was my opportunity to say "thank you" to almost 500 safety professionals for the work they do to keep Soldiers, civilians and families safe. Their work impacts the conditions in which we train, work, live and play, both on duty and off duty. This includes driver training, home safety, child and family safety,

(See Lt. Gen. Lynch on page 2)

News Notes

Baggers needed at commissary

Daytime baggers are needed at the YPG Commissary. Hours will vary. For more information, call the commissary office at 328-2240.

Update on office furniture replacement

Effective October 1, the Army has instituted a new policy for the procurement of replacement office furniture. All replacement office furniture will be procured by the Directorate of Logistics in Bldg. Procurement of office furniture will be on a reimbursable basis. Specific request and turn-in procedures will be published on the Intranet and a change to the Property Book Standards of Procedure. Customers are reminded that all government equipment and supplies must be turned in through government supply channels. For more information call Patty Stallings at ext. 2159.

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. Only donations from appropriated fund civil service employees are accepted.

YPG currently has 10 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
- Robert "Smoke" Trujillo, YTC, motorcycle accident and subsequent surgeries
- Jesse White, YTC, cancer surgery
- Clara Zachgo, CRTC, pregnancy and childbirth

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

USA show for the troops

Central Arizona Blue Star Moms (CABS) along with TRIWest Healthcare Alliance would like to invite military members to a Veteran's Day Military Tribute, USA Show for the Troops. CABS is a local Arizona chapter of Blue Star Mothers of America, a congressionally recognized, all volunteer organization.

On the evening of November 10, "Toby Keith's I Love this Bar and Grill" 1065 N. Dobson Rd. in Mesa, Ariz., from 6 p.m. to will help us create a USO party in the Arizona desert.

Free tickets to all active duty, National Guard, Reserve or Wounded Warrior. For more information, call Sharon Grassie, event coordinator at 480-329-5174.

Sexual Assault Hotline: 920-3104 or 329-3224
Report Domestic Violence: 328-2720 or 328-3224

The OUTPOST is an unofficial publication authorized under provisions of AR 360-1. The OUTPOST is published every two weeks by the Public Affairs Office, Yuma Proving Ground. Views and opinions expressed are not necessarily those of the Department of the Army. This newspaper uses material credited to DTC, ATEC, and ARNEWS. While contributions are solicited, the PAO reserves the right to edit all submitted materials and make corrections, changes or deletions to conform with the policy of this newspaper. News may be submitted to the Editor, OUTPOST, Yuma Proving Ground, Yuma, AZ, 85365. Phone (928) 328-6533/6189 or DSN 899-6533. You can visit our web page at: www.us.army.mil or e-mail to: yolanda.canales@us.army.mil

CommanderCol. Thomas Payne
 Public Affairs Officer.....Chuck Wullenjohn
 Public Affairs Specialist/Editor.....Yolanda Canales
 Public Affairs Specialist.....Mary F. Flores
 Public Affairs SpecialistMark Schauer
 Technical Editor, Cold Regions Test Center.....Clara Zachgo



Lt. Gen. Lynch (Continued from page 2)

weather conditions assessment, fire prevention, hazardous material handling, and weapons and range safety, to name just a few ways in which their work touches our daily lives.

I thanked them for their continuing diligence, their continuing efforts to monitor trends and address issues to prevent loss. A recent example was a six-month Army-wide fire safety campaign in 2009. The campaign was launched to reverse the increasing number of military housing and facility fires, and succeeded in netting more than \$20 million in cost avoidance in the second half of the year. An ongoing example is a motor vehicle and motorcycle traffic safety program that is contributing to a downward trend in accidental fatalities. We are at the lowest level in more than seven years, and other military services are looking at our model.

So we can point to examples of how our safety program is working. However, as I said to the safety professionals, for whose work I am truly grateful, we can never become complacent or act as if what we are doing is good enough, as long as we are still losing lives through senseless, preventable accidents.

Everyone is a safety officer. Everyone has an obligation to look out for themselves and the Soldiers, civilians and families around them. The requirements are in place—we have The Army Safety Program, AR 385-10 and IMCOM's Safety Program Regulation—so we need to make sure we act on them. In order to improve our safety efforts, there are six things I ask us all to consider:

First, we will not cut corners or funds to save money at the expense of our safety program. It is fundamentally unwise to do so. Why would we want to negatively affect a program that saves lives? Rather than cutting corners to save money, we should put money toward the right resources in order to improve the safety program. In doing so, we will have a positive impact in keeping the Army Family in tact.

Second, when we allocate resources for safety programs, we need to make sure to reach all members of the Army Family, not just active duty Soldiers. Funds need to be allocated for our safety programs to reach Soldiers of all components, retirees, civilians and all their families. Only by reaching every member of our communities can we instill a culture that puts safety first – a culture that protects our Army Family and keeps the Army mission ready.

Third, everyone must support the senior commanders as they are responsible for the life of every Soldier, civilian and family member on their installation. Everyone must embrace the safety program and be actively involved. While the commander is the one ultimately responsible for mission accomplishment and the safety of people and resources assigned to him or her, all of us must know the safety program and carry it out to standard. The safety program is the commander's program and all of us are safety officers.

Fourth, I have been a motorcycle driver my entire adult life and have never had a motorcycle accident. I firmly believe that it is not a matter of luck, but preparation. I drive my motorcycle only if I have the right frame of mind, the right protective equipment and a planned route.



Lt. Gen. Rick Lynch

Many people label motorcycles as unsafe. However, it is not the motorcycle that is unsafe, it is the driver. That is why leaders need to make sure the appropriate safety training is available prior to a new rider driving a motorcycle. It is not smart for an untrained motorcycle driver to drive his or her new motorcycle on post in order to learn how to operate it properly. Motorcycle driving simulators are necessary and should be made available at every IMCOM installation.

Fifth, the Installation Management Campaign Plan (IMCP) 2.0 is being launched this month at the Garrison Commanders' Conference in San Antonio. The plan's Line of Effort (LOE) on safety charges commanders and other leaders to lead the way in changing behavior to prevent accidents, and to empower Soldiers, civilians and families at all levels to speak up when they see someone ignoring safety rules or doing something risky. Safety is everyone's business, and it is our responsibility to ensure safe performance in all we do. Everyone will be held accountable for accident prevention. The LOE calls for providing effective privately owned vehicle safety programs; heightening safety awareness; employing hazard control measures; requiring and promoting safe, healthy practices; and support for the senior commander.

Sixth, I challenge all of you to look at the IMCP's Safety LOE and ask yourselves, "What are we missing?" I often mention the 80 percent solution as being good enough to proceed, but this LOE is an instance when we need to keep aiming for 100 percent. We cannot be satisfied as long as we have a single accident. If safety requirements are not adequate, we will improve them. If we are doing something ineffective out there, we will stop. But if no one tells me, we cannot correct the issue. I need your input.

When we think about the safety program, we should not focus on saving money. We should not concentrate our efforts on finding different ways to reduce costs, but on how to make our safety program better. It is about saving the lives of our Army Family. That is the passion every individual must pursue. When you practice safety and teach others about safety, you are saving lives – and I cannot think of a higher calling.

Service in three wars leads to YPG

One thing different about YPG; civilians outnumbered uniformed personnel even in 1971

by Mark Schauer

Serving through World War II, Korea and Vietnam, Lt. Col. Dunbar Norton had seen a lot. But never anything like Yuma Proving Ground when he arrived in 1971.

After 39 years, Norton still remembers his first day, fresh from Vietnam and unaccompanied by his family so his children could finish the school year. He was the post's new executive officer, the second-highest ranking uniformed position at that time.

"They had been expecting me and had a second-floor room in the bach-



Dunbar Norton reminisces over a cup of coffee about his arrival at YPG in 1971. (Photo by Mark Schauer)

elor officer's quarters waiting," said Norton. "The trouble was, I couldn't get to my room because some young lieutenants had somehow put an MG automobile in the middle of the hallway as a prank. It proved a delightful place to be."

YPG was different from any installation at which Norton had served in that civilians outnumbered uniformed personnel.

"The civilian workforce was about 500 and uniformed personnel numbered between 200 and 300," said Norton. "I was fascinated because it was my first exposure to any quantity of civil service employees. The majority of the test officers were company-grade officers and the crew chiefs were sergeants, however."

Even then, YPG's primary mission was the test and evaluation of artillery. However, the proving ground was just beginning another major activity, testing and integrating weapon systems into helicopters.

"Lockheed had a major test on a helicopter called the Cheyenne," he said. "The Army never bought it, but we tested it for several years."

The AH-56 Cheyenne helicopter was the Army's first attempt to build a dedicated attack helicopter, a need that was ultimately filled by the iconic Apache. Though the Cheyenne was never fielded, its testing at YPG resulted in a significant influx of aviation testers from Maryland's Aberdeen Proving Ground

and the construction of expensive and sophisticated infrastructure like runways, and laser and optical tracking sites that in upgraded form continue to support manned and unmanned aviation testing to this day.

During this same period, YPG also hosted developmental testing of what ultimately became the global positioning system (GPS), a monumental innovation that at the time was seen as just another test.

"YPG was a typical military community," said Norton. "The only differences were the size and, frankly, the casualness."

Frontline

There was nothing casual about the nature of Norton's long service in the Army. Born in Oregon to a lumbering family, as a teen he worked summers and dreamed of going away to college. Like most other members of the "greatest generation," however, World War II interrupted his plans.

"I was drafted September 11, 1944," recalled Norton. "My father was chairman of the draft board."

Discharged as a sergeant in June of 1946, Norton enrolled at the University of Oregon, the grounds of which were across the street from his family home. Upon matriculating, a friend asked when he would be starting with the Reserve Officers Training Corps, which was then compulsory for all male students who weren't veterans.

"I grabbed his shirt and said, 'I don't have to, I'm a vet,'" Norton recalled with a laugh. "He told me that the advanced course, which my prior service made me eligible for, paid \$25 a month. That was beer money, so I enrolled."

He received his reserve commission two years later. By the time he graduated, he was married and the young couple was expecting its first child.

"I decided to make the Army a career," Norton said. "I was just smart enough to realize that you didn't do it as a reservist."

At that time, only graduates of the Military Academy at West Point were commissioned as regular Army officers, while reservists competed for that type of commission. Candidates were locked into a two-year competitive tour with frequent ratings for efficiency and appearances before boards. As the North Atlantic Treaty Organization was formed, Norton accompanied the Army's second armored division to Germany, which was still devastated from the war.

"There was a lot of hate directed toward Americans, but that was alright," said Norton.

Of five officer candidates in his battalion, Norton and three others were offered regular commissions. Though the Korean War had broken out while he was in Germany, he wasn't sent there until 1958, five years after the cease-fire between North and South Korea. Nonetheless, the armored cavalry troop he commanded along the demilitarized zone saw plenty of action.

"My people caught line crossers on nearly a daily basis," said Norton.

"They were coming from the north to spy."

Norton was not isolated in the garrison during this time, however. He and a lieutenant wanted to help contribute to South Korea's future in more ways than just defending its border with the communist north.

"We started a scholarship fund and I involved a grandmother of mine who was very affluent," Norton said. "The idea was to bring Koreans to college in the United States with the agreement that they would return upon graduation. Many Koreans attended U.S. colleges at that time and stayed, which was fine, but we wanted these students to go back and serve their country."

The first recipient was a man who had worked for Norton and used his scholarship to earn a Master's Degree at the College of Puget Sound. He eventually became a vice president of Korean Air Lines, Norton said.

After serving the next ten years at various posts stateside, in 1969 Norton deployed to Vietnam.

"I was a liaison officer between Military Assistance Command Vietnam and the Army of South Vietnam," Norton said. "We were headquartered in Saigon, but I spent more time in the field looking at units all over the country."

Yuma Proving Ground

After his tour in Vietnam was up in late 1970, Norton was given five choices for his next duty station, including Dugway Proving Ground in Utah, which had recently become notorious for biological weapon testing gone wrong.

"I didn't want that job," Norton said. "There was a small problem with dead sheep."

He saw YPG as the most family-friendly of his options. He was also pleased to learn that both the installation's commander, Col. Norman "Robby" Robinson, and the commander of the Material Test Directorate (today's Yuma Test Center), Lt. Col. George Armstrong Custer, were former classmates and longtime friends of his. Custer was also the grandnephew of the famous Gen. George Custer.

"George told me that my quarters would be between his and Robby's, and I replied, 'I'm not coming,'" Norton recalled with a smile. "I explained, 'I'll settle your fights during duty hours, but not on weekends.' They were like two cats on a fence -- good friends, but completely unable to get along."

Rather than pull his youngest two children out of school halfway through the school year, Norton lived unaccompanied for his first six months at the proving ground and used his spare time to tour the vast ranges over which he was second-in-command. He was well aware of the proving ground's beginning as part of a training ground General Patton used to prepare twenty divisions of men for projected combat in the North African theater during World War II. Two of the distant sites he visited included a national defense radar station that was operated by

the Air Force in a remote part of the installation's northern section and the isolated headquarters of the range control division.

"I'd get a jeep most weekends and drive around the range," Norton said. "Range control was a telephone, paper maps and radar operation."

Serving as executive officer at a major proving ground was serious business, but in his day-to-day management duties he also had to contend with minor squabbles and personality conflicts between division heads. Norton said he had an open door policy wherever he served, a trait that others may have taken advantage of. He often used humor to cope and make his point when mediating disputes.

"It seemed like my day always started with the head of weapons testing and the post engineer, both civilians, banging heads over something," Norton said. "One day they came into my office and I had a striped black and white shirt on a hanger. I pointed to the shirt and said, 'I'm the referee, and you're both out.'"

Since military conscription didn't cease until 1973, many of the troops at the proving ground during Norton's tenure were draftees. As such, the post closely resembled a typical Army garrison, albeit on a smaller scale. Rather than a health clinic, Norton recalls that YPG then had a 15 bed hospital staffed with four uniformed physicians, including cardiac and internal medicine specialists, as well as a surgeon. The post dentist held the rank of lieutenant colonel. Even so, civilian workers outnumbered uniformed personnel, though not at the dramatic rate they do in 2010, and the command staff anticipated that the trend would continue.

"Even in the 1970s, we predicted that YPG would ultimately become a primarily civil service installation," Norton said. "To do good testing, you need continuity in the workforce."

Norton is proud of the direction the proving ground has taken in the years since his retirement.

"YPG's economic impact at that time was nowhere near what it is today," he said. "When I retired, most people in Yuma weren't even aware of YPG's existence."

Retirement

Norton left YPG and the Army on September 29, 1974. He had served during three major wars and had a Bronze Star and Legion of Merit and Commendation medals with oak leaf clusters to show for it. In all the years since, he has only visited YPG twice: once as a guest at the ceremony in which current Commander Col. Thomas Payne assumed command and as keynote speaker at YPG's recent Memorial Day breakfast.

"I didn't want to be one of those old fuddy-duddies who come around and bother people," Norton said with a laugh.

Norton's service to the Yuma area lasted far longer than he would have imagined years earlier. Feeling bad that his two elder children had been

(See Norton on page 8)

Suriname (Continued from page 1)

to host this aspect of their workload.

“Suriname is an untapped resource for tropical testing,” said Col. Thomas Payne, YPG commander. “We’ve conducted one test there previously and are using the lessons we learned to implement a number of improvements for future testing.”

In 2008, TRTC evaluators put a Stryker combat vehicle through its paces on land near Moengo, Suriname, leased from BHP Billiton, the world’s largest mining company. Despite a series of logistical obstacles, the test was completed over a month ahead of schedule by about 20 evaluators from all three YPG test centers. Though the test was a success, there were several shortcomings, including the lack of paved roads between Moengo and the capital city of Paramaribo. TRTC personnel thus began to seek a suitable test location with upgraded infrastructure, and believe they have found an ideal spot south of the capital.

“The idea is to conduct tests more efficiently and with less cost,” Payne said. “The easier accessibility of this location is a major plus without losing any of the capability we need.”

The test site is located in central Suriname. It is accessed from paved roads robust enough to support heavy vehicles. The test trail itself is approximately a 20 mile loop of muddy jungle track.

“The embassy is very supportive of the tests,” said TRTC Director Ernie Hugh. “In fact, they look forward to them.”



YPG commander Col. Thomas Payne (right), YPG Command Sgt. Maj. Forbes Daniels (left) and Tropic Regions Test Center director Ernie Hugh (second from left) meet with an agent of the proposed Suriname test track property's owner during their visit. Unlike the previous location used for vehicle testing, this property is accessed from paved roads robust enough to support heavy vehicles. (Loaned photo)

In late August, Hugh, Payne and YPG Command Sgt. Maj. Forbes Daniels visited the proposed test site, meeting with an agent of the property’s owner and touring the

punishing jungle test course on all-terrain vehicles.

“It’s good to know we have an area to conduct tests in a tropical environment,” said Daniels. “It is a win-win situation for both the Army and the people of Suriname.”

“Testing our weapons systems in natural environments is critical to ensuring they work in any situation a Soldier might be in,” added Payne. “Rain, fog and humidity chambers can never replicate the conditions found in the field.”

The belt that saves lives: ‘seat belts’

submitted by the Safety Office

During the course of normal life, certain instances stand out. One that took place this past August highlights the importance of routine safety consciousness that prevented serious injury or even death.

Two months ago, a YPG heavy equipment operator drove a water truck on Highway 95 to one of the JERC sites. As the truck approached mile marker 88, the driver heard a popping sound and, before he knew it, the vehicle sharply pulled to the left, as the left front tire blew out. Fortunately, no oncoming traffic approached as the vehicle veered into the opposite lane.

When the truck finally hit the

sand at the side of the road, it dug in, causing the truck to roll over. It continued sliding about 60 feet before coming to a stop. Fortunately for the driver, he was wearing his seat belt as required by Yuma Proving Ground’s installation policy and Department of Defense directive.

Wearing the belt saved the driver from serious injury or death. After emerging from the vehicle, he called emergency personnel and was taken to Yuma for medical attention. Thankfully, he was not hurt.

Though the vehicle was totaled, the results could have been far worse. Safety consciousness prevented could have become a real tragedy. It’s a lesson for all of us.



Water truck rests on its side after the truck’s front left tire blew out causing the truck to roll on the passengers side. The vehicle was totaled, however, fortunately, the driver was wearing his seat belt which prevented a worse outcome. (Loaned photo)



Safety awardees recognized

During the monthly combined accident injury review board and senior leader’s safety meeting, several YPG employees were recognized with the Yuma Proving Ground Commander’s Safety Award for their safety suggestions and contributions to the safety program. Presenting the awards to Jerry Wells, Monty Ahles, Mark Thornton, Patty Jonez was YPG commander, Col. Thomas Payne (left) and Technical Director Julio Dominguez. Not available for photo was John Acton. (Photo by Mary Flores)

Labrador retrievers prove adept discovering explosives at YPG K9 village

by Mark Schauer

Soldiers deployed overseas are well aware of the vital role military working dogs play in seeking out improvised explosive devices. Dogs are able to detect odors nearly 100 million times fainter than humans are able, a feat that has led both military and civilian law enforcement agencies to utilize the super sense ability of dogs to search out all manner of contraband.

The Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF) uses canines to look for explosives and hidden firearms. For over a year, the agency supported military working dog training at Yuma Proving Ground by providing instructors and subject matter expertise to prepare hundreds of dogs and handlers for deployment overseas. This year, the bureau decided to go one step further by using the proving ground's extensive facilities for their own training needs. ATF brought along handlers from a number of local, state and federal agencies, including the Federal Emergency Management Agency, with whom they partner throughout each year.

"The facilities are great," said Deborah Dassler, branch chief of the ATF's Advanced Canine Training and Operations Branch. "It gives us the opportunity to bring handlers and dogs from all over the country to get familiarized with desert conditions and terrain. Our dogs are subject to being called out anywhere in the country."

For their unique mission, ATF agents favor Labrador retrievers for their innate hunting drive and amenability to accepting food as a reward. Their easy and unthreatening personalities make them simple to manage during operations in crowds at major public events like the Super



Halting trafficking in illegal firearms along the US southwest border by Mexican drug cartels is an urgent concern of the ATF, which makes training in a realistic desert environment even more critical. Trainers utilizing YPG's K9 village can set up simulated vehicle checkpoints, such as the one seen here.

Bowl that could potentially be targets for terrorist attacks. Since there are fewer than 40 special agent canine handlers in the entire agency—and less than 150 in state and local agen-

cies that partner with the ATF -- it is vital that the agency's working dogs are able to function in any environment at short notice.

"The training is for both the handlers and the dogs," explained Jason Johnson, an ATF canine instructor. "The handler needs to learn how to read dogs when they encounter varying amounts of explosives, and the dogs need to have their noses exposed to these scents."

During the course, each dog and handler was sent on multiple missions in YPG's K-9 Village. A variety of explosive compounds were hidden in buildings, under bridges and in derelict cars, in quantities ranging from massive to minute. The dogs had to contend with breezy conditions and the presence of all manner of smells that are undetectable to the human nose, from other training units and even wild animals, many of which were unfamiliar to them. Handlers had to keep dogs focused in the unfamiliar environment, monitor them for signs of heat stress, and reward every successful find with praise and food. They also had to verbally dissuade dogs from pawing at or otherwise disturbing the simulated explosives once they had found them. For this reason, dogs are trained to sit when they detect an explosive.

The illegal trafficking in firearms along the US southwest border by Mexican drug cartels is an urgent concern of the ATF at this time, which makes training in a realistic desert environment even more critical, and YPG has the facilities and support the agency needs.

"I feel the facilities are state of the art," said Johnson. "I was a dog handler in Iraq and Afghanistan, and the terrain and buildings here are very realistic."

"We've received excellent support out here," Dassler added. "Anything we've needed, they've been more than happy to help. YPG has treated us like family, and we really appreciate it."



ATF agent Thomas Gehlert leads his canine partner Sandman through a simulated mission on the outskirts of YPG's K9 village. ATF agents favor Labrador retrievers for their innate hunting drive and amenability to accepting food as a reward, as well as their nonthreatening personalities which make them easy to manage during operations at major public events.



Handlers like ATF agent Kyle Butler (above) have to keep dogs focused in the unfamiliar environment, monitor them for signs of heat stress, and reward every successful find with praise and food. They also have to verbally dissuade dogs from pawing at or otherwise disturbing simulated explosives once they have found them. For this reason, training dogs to sit when they detect an explosive is an important aspect of training. (Photos by Mark Schauer)

Viewpoints

With many employees beginning their work day at the crack of dawn, getting a good night's rest is essential. But, when the weekend rolls around, do you sleep in or do you continue to get up early?



Adrienne Egbers, contract specialist, MIC: I usually get up for work at 4:30 a.m. I work Monday through Thursday 6 a.m. to 4:30 a.m. I usually sleep until 6 a.m. on days off and that's sleeping in for me. I also have three school-age children and I'm doing things with them, so there is no sleeping in for me.



James McShane, network manager, Network Enterprise Center: I get up the same time every morning which is between 4:30 and 5 a.m., usually before the alarm sounds off, even on my days off. Sometimes on the weekend, I will go back to bed or squeeze in a nap but I still get up early because it's a force of habit.



Gabriel Duran, custodian, Yuma WORC Center: I work Monday through Thursday, 6 a.m. to 4 p.m., and usually I wake up around 3:30 a.m. to get ready for work. But, on my days off, I am able to sleep in until around 8 a.m. with no problem. If my children are with me on the weekends, I'm up earlier than that.



Erika Burns-Jaskolski, human resource specialist, U.S. Army Europe, Heidelberg, Germany: When I'm back in Germany I work 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday through Friday. I never sleep in on the weekends because I'm a farm girl from Illinois and when the sun shines through the window, I'm awake and ready to begin my day. I have never been the type of person to sleep in, but I wish I were.



Col. Thomas Payne, commander, Yuma Proving Ground: My clock is all over the map so when it's time to sleep, I sleep, and when it's time to wake up, I rely on the alarm clock. Sometimes I need to come in to work early or if I'm flying out somewhere, I'm up even earlier. During critical situations, I may even set two alarm clocks, so I don't oversleep. I usually catch up on my sleep during flights and I haven't slept in since I was in college, 25 years ago.



Greg Moe, electronics technician, Northrop Grumman: During the work week, I wake up at 4 a.m. for my work schedule which is Monday through Thursday from 6 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Sleeping in for me is waking up at 6 a.m. and that's the extent of it, because my body won't let me sleep in any longer.

Managing stress in a relationship

Submitted by Paul J. Kilanski Family Advocacy Program Manager

Stress affects everyone at times and can be difficult for couples to handle. Hopefully, this article will help you understand what causes stress and how to best manage it.

Stress is a reaction to demands that feel overwhelming. Stress can cause unpleasant feelings. When stressed, you may feel tense, insecure or irritable. You may feel fearful or powerless. You may also experience physical reactions to stress such as headaches, upset stomach or back pains. People under stress may see themselves as less capable and overwhelmed. Stress can make it hard to do well in life and in relationships. In a relationship, one person's stress affects both partners. Stress can be caused by difficult times such as work problems or illness. But stress can also come from positive life experiences such as getting married or getting a promotion at work.

Stress causes you to be different from usual. Some changes caused by stress are: a change in mood from being comfortable to being upset or very quiet, a switch from solving problems to constant complaining, a shift from active to being tired and sleepy, less interest in interactions with your partner or feeling bad about oneself.

Stress can cause partners to turn against each other. Partners can get angry with each other about small issues. You may criticize and blame each other and get into arguments. You may stop discussing issues and solving problems together. You may avoid each other and feel apart and alone.

Stress can be outside or inside the relationship. Outside stress can be about work, family, money, health or legal problems. Long absences such as travel for work or military service can also create stress. Inside stress can be about one partner not feeling respected or appreciated. Sometimes the cause of the stress is not clear to the person who feels it.

Help reduce the stress! Declare the stress as OUR stress, even if it is only one of you who is stressed. Listen carefully and allow your partner to vent their feelings. Be supportive and encouraging. Tell your partner that they are loved. Reassure your partner that this stress is temporary and that you can overcome it as a team.

Strengthen yourselves for future stress. Practice talking and solving problems together.

Share physical activities. Dance, hike or take a bike ride. Being active produces hormones that fight stress. Be playful and funny. Laughter reduces stress. Support each other in healthy eating, getting enough sleep and taking time for relaxation. Learn from past experiences. If you did well with stress, build on your successes. If you had a hard time, try to problem solve what you can do differently the next time. Show affection. People who feel valued and loved are better able to handle stress.

Stop workplace bullies

What's at stake?

Workplace bullying takes a toll on workplace morale and safety. Left unchallenged, bullying creates a dog pack mentality where others will add to the problem – by ignoring a victim or joining in on mean behavior.

What's the danger?

Bullying can lead to incidents of physical violence as victims retaliate against their tormentors or bullies escalate their actions. Everyone is entitled to a safe workplace. A workplace that tolerates bullying cannot be considered safe.

Example

In one bullying case, a transit worker returned to his former place of employment and fatally shot four former co-workers before taking his own life. In a suicide note, he wrote about having been teased about a speech impediment. His note named several individuals he wanted dead.

How to protect yourself

It would be nice if ignoring a bully would make the problem go away. In reality the unacceptable behavior likely will continue and escalate. You need to confront the bully. It's best to take action right when harassment occurs. Hold up your hand, say, "Stop" and tell the person that behavior is not acceptable and you will not tolerate it. If the person keeps harassing you, calmly repeat the same message, adding that if the person doesn't back off you'll be forced to report him/her to management. Then, turn to other co-workers in the area and tell them you may need their support as witnesses if the bullying continues.

Carefully detail all incidents in writing. You may need to produce that information later. If the bullying doesn't stop and you must report it to a manager, try to take someone with you as a supporting witness. Some workplaces have a culture of harassment that goes right to the top. If your complaint gets you nowhere, the best solution may be to find another job and leave with dignity.

Final word

You can't possibly get along with everyone, but that doesn't mean you must put up with treatment that leaves you depressed, shaken and physically ill. Remember, it is not your fault. You have a legal right to work without physical, sexual or emotional abuse. And if this safety meeting causes you to wonder if you are a bully, you should talk to a professional counselor.

REMEMBER: You have a legal right to work without physical, sexual or emotional abuse.

Price Elementary School participates in International Walk to School Day

by Yolie Canales

Price Elementary School at Yuma Proving Ground joined the millions of kids and parents around the globe and across America in celebrating "International Walk to School Day" last week. A number of members of the YPG workforce joined in the festivities.

The event began as an idea in 1997, when the Partnership for a Walkable America sponsored the first National

Walk Our Children to School Day in Chicago, modeled after a program in the United Kingdom. Back then, it was simply a day to bring community leaders and children together to create awareness of the need for communities to be walkable.

By 2002, children, parents, teachers and community leaders in all 50 states joined nearly three million walkers around the world to celebrate the second annual International Walk to School Day.



Deputy garrison manager Chris Saucedo chats with students at a Price School reception celebrating International Walk to School Day. Students and parents were served orange juice, muffins, and other light refreshments prior to classes on October 6th. (Photos by Mark Schauer)



Hurry up, mom! Tyler Granger (left) walks to Price School with mother Calah and brothers Christian and Ryder (in stroller). Established in 1997, International Walk to School Day celebrates communities and raises awareness for safer streets and healthier habits.

For the first time at YPG, parents and their kids were encouraged to join in and walk or bike to school in observance of this day. Homemade muffins, apples and juice were offered to participants as they arrived at school giving everyone an opportunity to socialize and visit before classes began. In addition, this was a perfect time to showcase the ongoing construction and safety enhancements around the school zone area as well as throughout the installation.

PTO president Elizabeth Mikkelsen and volunteer, Amy Milton, coordinated the event and stated that this was a great opportunity for parents to get out and walk with their kids and be part of a global happening. They also wanted to thank the YPG leadership for all the positive changes being made to improve pedestrian safety to and from school for the chil-

dren. "We are really excited for the efforts made by everyone in Garrison and appreciate them listening to the needs of the families who live on the installation and send their children to Price School. We are fortunate to live in a community where our children can walk to school year-around and we are truly grateful for the added sidewalks, safety crossings and traffic signs leading up to the school," said Milton. "It has already made a positive difference in the community and we are all looking forward to the completion of the projects."

Whether the concern is safer and improved streets, healthier habits or cleaner air, the "Walk to School Day" event is aimed at bringing forth permanent change to encourage a more walkable America—one community at a time.



Sparky waves happily as he visits the command staff meeting on Monday, Oct. 4

October is National Fire Prevention Month, and to raise fire safety awareness, Sparky the Fire Dog accompanied human fire inspectors and firefighters from Yuma Proving Ground's fire department to visit offices and shops at the installation, passing out a variety of literature and reminders on how to prevent fires. Chief Don Kist of the fire department said that residents need to understand that working smoke alarms are needed in every home. If smoke alarms are 10 years or older, they need to be replaced. (Photo by Chuck Wullenjohn)

Family, Morale, Welfare & Recreation Happenings

BACK BY POPULAR DEMAND!

Karaoke!

**FRIDAYS
1900-2300 HRS
CACTUS CAFE**

Questions?
Give us a call at 328-2333.

Please jump responsibly.

MWR

Put on your lederhosen
and get your stein ready...

Oktoberfest

2010

U.S. ARMY YUMA PROVING GROUND

23 October 2010

For the latest Oktoberfest news and information,
follow us on Facebook and Twitter.
Visit us online at www.yumamwr.com

Follow us on
Twitter
www.yumamwr.com

Find us on
Facebook
<http://www.yumamwr.com>

Muster (Continued from page 1)

"I'm proud of the firefighters for the effort put forth and competing on their day off."

The one-day event gave onlookers an adrenaline rush as they cheered their favorite teams. One of the more exciting races was the bucket brigade, where competitors worked together to transfer a set amount of water from one container to another, spilling as little as possible. Racing against the clock, firefighters worked their hearts out to beat their opponents, using a technique to douse fires used generations ago.

"There was a great amount of enthusiasm and interest amongst the department to enter this competition," said Ball. "Taking part in events like these gives the public an

opportunity to see firefighters having fun while building camaraderie between fellow firefighters from different departments in a pleasant environment."

Each year, YPG firefighters look forward to showcasing their skills at the muster but, for some, it was their first time ever. For others, like YPG Capt. Scott Wilson, it had been several years since last competing. "I really enjoyed all the events, especially the bucket brigade and barrel squirt race," Wilson said. "It took teamwork, strength and endurance to push the barrel across the finish line. The barrel was suspended in the air by a wire, and it's a huge force of water coming out of the hose. Keeping it steady and the water on the barrel

was a challenge."

Although YPG firefighters enjoyed the event, there were obstacles they had to overcome. Coordinating practices between various work schedules and a day off was quite a challenge. When practice took place, they worked in grueling heat to hone their techniques

"This event was not mainly about winning, but about having fun and building camaraderie with fellow firefighters," said YPG fire chief Donald Kist. "YPG has been competing in these events for the past five to six years and we plan to continue to do so for years to come."

Norton (Continued from page 3)

obligated to move frequently during his service, the Norton family remained in Yuma. Fortuitously, a timely job offer made the decision easier.

"I was offered a job at the chamber of commerce," Norton said. "They were looking at getting into the business of economic development, which was just starting to grow in the middle 1970s. I became the Yuma chamber's first director of economic development."

Norton later built two industrial parks and founded a consulting firm that published a monthly economic report that received widespread praise. He has served on the boards of a plethora of local civic and charitable organizations, including the county's Industrial Development Authority and the Yuma County Airport Authority.

These days, Norton is an active member of the local chapter of the Military Officers Association of America. He remarried after his first wife died and delights in the accomplishments of his 11 grandchildren.

"We talked a couple of times about moving, but we have too many friends," Norton said. "Yuma is now home. It was a good place to stay."



Although they didn't bring home any awards, YPG firefighters enjoyed participating in the muster. Left to right are Carlos Teran, Wade Garcia, Scott Wilson, Florencio Garcia, Jairo Magana & Daniel DeCarlo.

Next Outpost
deadline is
noon
October 14th