

# 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](http://www.yuma.army.mil)

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## New director assumes DTC responsibility

by Mike Cast, Army Developmental Test Command

A ceremony at Aberdeen Proving Ground Dec. 17 marked a change in leadership for the Developmental Test Command (DTC) as well as its new director's promotion to the Senior Executive Service (SES).

David Jimenez, who was the Associate Director, System Engineering, for the Communications Electronics, Research Development and Engineering Center (CERDEC), became an SES as he assumed responsibility for DTC. Its former director, Mike Etzinger, now leads the Army Evaluation Center (AEC).

Both DTC and AEC come under the aegis of the Army Test and Evaluation Command and its commander, Maj. Gen. Genaro Dellarocco, who officiated at the ceremony. He lauded both Etzinger and Jimenez for their service to the nation and the important work they are doing for the Army and the United States. During his remarks, he noted that 2011 will be a year of change for APG as well as DTC.

"This is going to be the year of tran-

sition for a lot of different reasons," he said. "Of course the Base Realignment and Closure process, as everybody is well aware, is bringing all sorts of things to this installation, and also to the headquarters and DTC. But there is also going to be some transition and transformation within the command that we are going to launch into over the next few months. That will carry on, probably over the next couple of years, as we organize and look at how we do business better and more efficiently in a shrinking budget environment. So both gentlemen are going to have their hands full . . . helping with the transformation."

As he presided over Jimenez's ceremonial elevation to the rank of SES and assumption of responsibility for DTC, Dellarocco paid tribute to his family for contributing to his success as a civilian Army leader at CERDEC. He presented coins to Jimenez's daughter, Rebecca; his son, Gabriel; and his wife, Ida.

"His success is grounded on family, and I can see that," Dellarocco said of

(See DTC on page 2)

## Time flies for former football player, pilot



From college football and a near-miss at NFL glory to a long career as a Marine weapons and air combat tactics instructor, SeAir pilot Richard Smith's life experiences are the mere dreams of many. A pilot at YPG for nearly 10 years, he has flown as many as 21 lifts per day in support of the Military Freefall School. "Flying is like a drug," Smith said. "When I'm not doing it, I'm miserable." (Photo by Mark Schauer)

by Mark Schauer

Countless youngsters dream of becoming a professional football player or an elite military jet fighter pilot. Few achieve either, which puts YPG pilot Richard Smith in elite company.

As a pilot supporting the Military Freefall School, Smith has notched nearly half of his 10,200 career flight hours in his nine years at YPG and has flown as many as 21 lifts in a single day.

"I fly in direct support of the Freefall School and I couldn't ask for a better mission," Smith said. "They are an awesome bunch. Their spirit and morale never changes, and their enthusiasm is infectious. They are always up."

But Smith had plenty of excitement in his life prior to joining the YPG workforce in 2001. A native of Downers Grove, Ill., Smith's excellence as an offensive guard on his high school team earned him a football scholarship to Southern Illinois University (SIU), which also happened to have a well-

regarded aviation program. Though he had only flown in an airplane once in his life, Smith thought it would be fun to take a three credit flight instruction class as an elective toward his degree in physical education. He was shocked to find himself in a Cessna 150 with a flight instructor the very day he signed up. Intensely nervous, the plane made a slight dip in an air pocket and the 270 pound football player instinctively seized the door handle in a tight grip.

"The instructor looked and told me, 'Relax! Planes are designed to fly, not crash,'" he recalled with a laugh. "That made a lot of sense, and by and large it's true."

Despite the rocky start, Smith was quickly hooked on flying, but focused the bulk of his attention elsewhere.

"Flying was a sideline," Smith said. "My main ambition was to be a professional football player."

The promising young offensive guard was redshirted to extend his

(See Pilot on page 8)



David Jimenez, DTC's new director, addresses the audience at the recent change of leadership ceremony. Jimenez will be visiting Yuma Proving Ground on February 7 and will address the workforce at a town hall meeting. (Loaned photo)

## News Notes

### Army Emergency Relief (AER) Campaign update

The 2010 AER Campaign officially ended May 15. We would like to take this opportunity to thank all of the generous individuals who contributed to the campaign!

It's amazing, how we are still receiving contributions. We received contributions totaling \$46,968.90 for the 2010 campaign.

The 2011 Campaign which begins March 1, will run through May 11 and Army Community Center is gearing up for it.

For more information, call Connie Everly, ACC's personal financial readiness specialist at 328-3350.

### Town hall meeting

A town hall meeting will be held at the Desert Oasis Communities Center in the Main Administrative Area on Jan. 27 at 5:30 p.m. Everyone is invited.

### Military homeowners update

If you have been wounded while on active duty, or your spouse has lost their life in combat, you may be eligible for special mortgage forbearance. If you are unable to make your mortgage payment as a result of one of these unique hardships, and your loan is owned by Fannie Mae, you may be eligible for temporary relief from your monthly mortgage payments.

To find out if Fannie Mae owns your mortgage or if you are eligible, please call Fannie Mae at 1-877-MIL-4566, or contact Annette M. Yover, Survivor Outreach Services Coordinator Arizona Army National Guard/GBW at: 602-629-4725 ext 1.

### Baggers needed

Baggers are needed at the YPG Commissary for daytime and evening hours. Please call the commissary at 328-2240 for more details.  
Your commissary... is worth the trip.

## Congratulations to Price Elementary School



### January Go-Getters




*The Outpost proudly recognizes the following students from Mrs. Mathis class for their hard work and performing at their very best: Gabriel Kloberdanz and Haylee Navarre.*

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# A vision for the future—Installation Management Community

by Lt. Gen. Rick Lynch

Like many others this time of year, I have been reflecting on the past 12 months and looking forward to the new year. In my professional capacity, I am focusing on the future of the Installation Management Community. Specifically, what should the Installation Management Community look like a year from now?

I have been asking this question of Installation Management personnel during meetings, town halls, and garrison visits. After all, the dedicated professionals at the garrisons and headquarters are doing the work on a daily basis; they know what it takes to deliver the facilities, programs and services that support our Soldiers and Families.

I have also been seeking feedback from Soldiers, Families and leaders through a number of avenues, including installation visits, the Family Forums at the Association of the United States Army annual conference, the Army Community Service focus groups I recently held, and the Army Family Survey. This feedback is critical because everything we do is focused on providing Soldiers and Families the programs, services and facilities that support their well-being, resilience and readiness. We need to know where we are on target and where we are missing the mark.



Lt. Gen. Rick Lynch

I urge everyone—Installation Management personnel, Soldiers, Family members, leaders—to continue to send me solid ideas that help answer the three fundamental questions: Are we doing the right things? Are we doing things right? What are we missing?

The point of asking for input from so many different people is to build a shared vision of where we are going in the next year. I am meeting with senior Installation Management Community leaders this month to develop that vision based on all of this input. The shared vision will

(See Vision on page 6)

### DTC (Continued from page 1)

Jimenez. “He has had a really great career. He’s the right guy at the right time for this job. This installation has had a test focus for decades, but now it is getting a different flavor. The folks from Fort Monmouth are coming down, and it’s going to change the complexion of this (installation) pretty substantially. He’s my go-to guy to make this work.”

After presenting Jimenez with the certificate of appointment to the Senior Executive Service, Dellarocco administered the oath of office. Then, according to tradition, Jimenez unfurled the SES flag that symbolizes his attainment of that rank.

Etzinger ceremonially passed the DTC colors to Jimenez through DTC Command Sgt. Maj. Carlton Handy. For his leadership of the command from May to December 2010, Etzinger received the Superior Civilian Service Award. The award citation read, in part: “Mr. Etzinger’s extraordinary vision, technical competence and superb leadership ensured the Army developed and acquired equipment and systems that were instrumental in protecting our warfighters. Through his personal efforts and tireless dedication, Mr. Etzinger motivated his employees to their highest levels of performance, ensuring the success of the command mission.”

“For anyone who has worked with me or actually been in close proximity to me, I guess there are a couple

things that are fairly apparent about me,” Etzinger said afterward. “One: I say what I mean. Two: I mean what I say. With that in mind, I would like to take this opportunity to express my most heartfelt thank you to the entire DTC family. It has been a pleasure. It has been a privilege. Test for the best. Army strong.”

During closing remarks, Jimenez said mentors guided him along his path to leadership.

“I’ll tell you that I was incredibly fortunate the minute I walked into the Army in the mid ‘80s,” he said. “I was taken under the wing of somebody who served as my mentor. You look back at those experiences, and those are the things I built my career upon—things like work as hard as you can, always do the right thing, look out for the interests of the Army, and that drove me to where I am today. All those things I just told you, you couldn’t accomplish without the support of family. You can’t accomplish it without the teamwork of people that you meet along the way.”

He said his success was not his alone but one he shared with his wife – and that he was “humbled” by the warm welcome he received from people in DTC. To his new DTC staff he added, “I promise to work hard for you every day, and together we are going to figure out the Army’s big challenges in test and evaluation.”

# M-ATV undergoes rigorous cold weather testing in Alaska

by Clara Zachgo

A large flat bed truck arrived at the US Army Cold Regions Test Center (CRTC) in late September with a 12.5-ton vehicle covered in ice and dirt chained to it. The military's new Mine Resistant Ambush Protected (MRAP) All Terrain Vehicle (M-ATV) came to undergo its first round of cold weather testing. This vehicle saw exhaustive testing over the past couple of years in Maryland and Arizona, but had yet to see extensive testing in the natural cold environment.

The M-ATV was designed after an urgent request was placed for a vehicle capable of maneuvering the mountainous terrain, unimproved roads, and narrow village streets of Afghanistan while providing the added protection the MRAP vehicles have against blasts from improvised explosive devices (IED). The M-ATV has the same v-shaped hull as all other MRAP variants to deflect IED blasts away from the Soldiers inside, but is about half as large and incorporates an independent suspension system. Because of the urgent need to protect our warfighters, the M-ATV was fielded immediately; the design, production, testing, and delivery of the vehicle occurred within a year of receiving the request.

With the focus of the war shifting to Afghanistan, CRTC's mission has become more crucial than ever, for CRTC tests the equipment being fielded to our Soldiers in an environment similar to that in theatre. Average winter temperatures in Afghanistan are below freezing and CRTC's testing helps to identify how systems will perform in such inhospitable temperatures. The issues identified during testing allow better products and more knowledge of system performance to be delivered to our Soldiers. "One of the more satisfying aspects



**Lighter and more maneuverable than prior Mine Resistant Ambush Protected (MRAP) vehicles, the MRAP-All Terrain Vehicle (M-ATV) is currently undergoing rigorous testing at Cold Regions Test Center after seeing extensive evaluation at Yuma Test Center. Soldiers from the 6th Engineer Battalion, United States Army Alaska, are serving as test participants. (Photo by Mike Kingston)**

of our work is the relevancy," said Richard Reiser, test officer. "To know that Soldiers in current theaters of operation are benefitting from information we provided very recently is an incentive to get out in the cold and keep testing".

In addition, Soldiers from the 6<sup>th</sup> Engineer Battalion, United States Army Alaska are serving as test participants. Having Soldier participation is beneficial for both CRTC and the Soldiers: CRTC gains the perspective and knowledge of the

individuals who will actually be using the M-ATVs, and the Soldiers gain familiarity with the equipment already in theater and valuable training on individual and unit specific tasks.

During the next several months, Reiser will put the M-ATV through rigorous testing in the cold. During the first few months of testing the temperatures have already dropped to well below minus 40 degrees Fahrenheit, providing ideal conditions for the planned cold weather endurance testing.

"We find that many of the challenges presented when operating in a cold regions environment such as temperature extremes, ever changing road surfaces, and even maintenance difficulties are increased," said Reiser. "Our efforts help inform the acquisition decision makers of these difficulties and provide suggestions for those challenges. These decision makers are then able to make more informed decisions regarding the best path forward."



**It looks like CRTC, but these MRAPs are in Afghanistan. Average winter temperatures there are below freezing and CRTC's testing helps to identify how systems will perform in such inhospitable temperatures. "One of the more satisfying aspects of our work is the relevancy," said Richard Reiser, test officer. "To know that Soldiers in current theaters of operation are benefitting from information we provided is an incentive to get out in the cold and keep testing". (Loaned photo)**

# Mortar projectile testing a specialty at Yuma

by Mark Schauer

For versatility and power, the humble mortar has been a key indirect fire weapon for generations, and is likely to become even more important as technology makes mortars more accurate and maneuverable.

Hard-to-traverse mountain terrain, urban areas, and a rapidly-moving enemy are all situations that call for the mortar as a weapon of choice. In addition to their firepower, American forces commonly rely on mortar teams to fire illumination rounds to light up areas at night or white phosphorous rounds to provide smoke screens that obscure troop movements during daytime operations.

Whether carried by a Solider or attached to a combat vehicle, virtually every type and variant of mortar in the ground combat arsenal goes through rigorous developmental testing at Yuma Proving Ground in southwestern Arizona. The facility also performs acceptance testing on lots of existing mortars on virtually a daily basis.

American forces use mortars in three calibers: 60mm, 81mm, and 120mm. The typical mortar consists of a ballistic tube attached to a base plate by a movable breach ball and propped up by a bipod. The base plate is typically the heaviest component: for a 120 mm mortar, it can weigh over 150 pounds. Mortar projectiles, which ignite when their firing pins hit the bottom of the tube, are propelled by explosive nitrocellulose charges of various sizes attached to the round, with larger charges providing greater distance. Mortars come with sight units for aiming and 60 mm versions can be fired hand-held on the hip.

## Testing

As the Department of Defense's second largest installation, YPG's immense size is often a major factor in attracting test customers. Since mortars are capable of ranges only a fraction of the distance of an artillery projectile, there are far more facilities that theoretically could accommodate mortar tests. Though YPG's customers are mostly drawn to

its institutional expertise and highly instrumented ranges, the proving ground's sheer size ensures that fired mortar rounds can be safely recovered for study. Its borders also contain a wide variety of terrain that simulate conditions in Southwest Asia, including mountains that are highly coveted in the testing of guided mortars, whose developers are especially keen to challenge these advanced systems with test firing from a low elevation into a higher elevation.

"We never like to turn away customers," said Claudia Anderson, chief of YPG's Munitions and Weapons Division. "We always find a way to work more efficiently and fit people in. Our schedule has expanded to frequent weekend firings."

YPG conducted more than 250 unique mortar tests in fiscal year 2010, constituting a majority of the workload for YPG's weapons operations crew and a significant portion of the overall munitions and weapons mission.

"Since 9/11, about two-thirds of our division workload has been mortars," said Wayne Schilders, chief of Weapons Operations. "That includes tests on the mortars themselves as well as mortar fire in support of tests of radar and counter-mortar technology."

While lot acceptance tests of mortar rounds look at whether a stored round can still function as intended under normal conditions, developmental tests of new systems or updated components on existing systems seek to improve the range, accuracy and reliability of the weapons, and are pushed to extreme limits.

"We usually test a new item by firing it 10,000 times," said Patty Jonez, a test officer in the Munitions and Weapons Division. "Most mortars in operational units don't fire that many times. That's why we test—to find out at what point it breaks."

This type of testing aims to see whether a mortar conditioned to extremely hot or cold temperatures will still fire. Mortar tubes become extremely hot after continuous firing and a system under development is tested in a similarly scalding tube to ensure the round doesn't 'cook off', or



120mm mortars are often attached to mortar carriers like the M1064 seen here. This variant of mortar in the ground combat arsenal goes through rigorous developmental testing. "We test every component of the vehicle," said Wayne Schilders, chief of weapons operations. "We also test system ergonomics, from the event of a misfire." The proving ground also does extensive testing for allied

explode in the tube, or in mid-air prior to reaching its target. The mortars are often fired under unusually high pressures, too, to determine the extent of their abilities. The base plate, which will ultimately crack under the strain of repeated firings, always garners intense scrutiny from testers.

The ballistic tubes used by YPG mortar testers are outfitted with holes to accommodate pressure gauges and other instrumentation. For a conven-

tional mortar, YPG testers gather information like muzzle pressure and velocities, and measurements of the range and deflection of the projectile's point of impact, which is usually calculated by observers stationed in towers overlooking the test range.

For guided mortars, testers also take high speed camera images at both the gun tube and the point of impact, track the round in mid-flight with massive camera mounts, and sometimes even attach telemetry devices the round itself to measure flight characteristics and assure that it acquires its satellite signal at the proper time. The instrumentation that allows a guided mortar to have this capability must also be relatively small, for mortars need space for their explosive payload.

All of the expensive, specialized instrumentation for this type of evaluation is already in place at YPG as a result of its longstanding status as the premier facility for artillery testing.

The artillery mission also means YPG has a deeply experienced staff at its ammunition plant that can assemble complex assemblies of switch ignition or propellant charges, and a metrology division that can accurately measure the most esoteric physical properties of a given projectile, be it a mortar or artillery. Rounds that have been recovered after firing can be dissected at YPG's water jet-cutting facility. Developmental testers usually want to see how their system can perform when conditioned to temperatures as low as -50 degrees and as high as 145 degrees, and YPG has conditioning chambers to accomplish this all year round. Some tests even



Like Charles Frost (above), many of YPG's weapon operators were stationed in artillery units while on active duty. The institutional knowledge enables them to perform onsite maintenance work that other installations send to repair facilities.

# Yuma Proving Ground's spacious ranges



Whether carried by a Soldier or attached to a combat vehicle, virtually every type and mortar is tested at YPG. When it comes to mortar carriers, YPG's vast testing mission covers everything from being able to shoot accurately to ensuring its durability," said Wayne Jones. "We also test misfire procedures and safely extracting rounds to exit procedures of personnel in the event of a misfire. (Photos by Mark Schauer)

call for rounds to be soaked in water prior to firing.

Testers also strive to consider how the rounds will fare under extreme combat scenarios: will the mortars detonate if a truck they are being transported on is struck by .50 caliber machine gun fire? Will rounds detonate if hit by shrapnel from a misfire? Knowing what to expect in these types of events is crucial information for troops in the field.

All through these challenging tests, safety is a primary concern. As such, gunners typically do not fire the test projectile by dropping it into the tube as a Soldier in combat would. Instead, most rounds are suspended over the mortar tube with a metal clip attached to the fuse or muzzle, which is pulled away by a long lanyard to fire the round. In the rare instances where a test requires fire that replicates actual use, the gunners, many of whom are



YPG test officers like Kevin Irr (right) conducted more than 250 unique mortar tests in fiscal year 2010. Mortar testing is a perpetual and cyclical component of YPG's test mission: Its presence in the developmental testing of mortar rounds offers valuable knowledge of the projectile's capabilities when it returns for routine lot acceptance testing.

uniformed artillery veterans, wear Kevlar vests and helmets.

Mortar testing is a perpetual and cyclical component of YPG's test mission: Its presence in the developmental testing of a given mortar round offers valuable knowledge of the projectile's capabilities when it returns for routine lot acceptance testing.

## Carriers and Self-Propelled Systems

When American mechanized infantry transitioned into Stryker combat brigades, the mortar came along for the ride with the M1129 Stryker Mortar Carrier. YPG's Combat Automotive Division has tested all variants of the Stryker and the Munitions and Weapons Division worked night and day to ensure the performance of the mortar.

"For the Stryker test, we fired 24,000 rounds on two weapons," Jones recalled. "We were running two shifts a day to accommodate this."

With a mechanized mortar carrier, the scope of evaluation goes far beyond firing. The repeated shock produced by a 120mm mortar's recoil can adversely impact the vehicle's engine mounts and suspension system, for example. This requires YPG testers to take a holistic view of a system.

"We have to test everything from being able to shoot accurately to ensuring its durability," said Schilders. "We also have to test system ergonomics, from misfire procedures and safely extracting rounds to exit procedures of personnel in the event of a misfire."

Self-propelled mortars have been a mainstay of allied European and Asian armies for a generation, and YPG has tested a variety of these

systems through the years, including Germany's Wiesel Lightweight Armored Mortar and the mortar variant of the Saudi Arabian National Guard's Light Armored Vehicle.

## Defense

YPG's expertise with mortars extends to testing sophisticated defensive measures against commonly-available, often low tech, weapons. Though improvised explosive device (IED) attacks became an indelible image of the Iraq war in the popular consciousness, mortars were the primary weapon of choice for insurgents in the earliest days of the conflict. Today's commonly available technologies to combat mortar attack, such as Counter Rocket, Artillery, Mortar (C-RAM) systems, the Lightweight Counter-Mortar Radar, and the Q-47 Fire Finder radar, were rapidly and extensively tested at YPG.

Since insurgents tend to use commonly available Soviet-era mortars of irregular calibers, YPG testers do likewise when putting defensive systems through their paces.

## Future

YPG has conducted mortar testing since its inception in 1951 and all signs point to this important mission continuing to be a vital mission element.

"Our customers like working with YPG because we can get the job done quickly and without interruption," said Jones. "We have relatively favorable weather year-round and provide enough space to test without having to worry about affecting populated areas. We have many repeat customers and get new business all the time. YPG is without a doubt the premier test facility in the nation."



YPG gunner Thomas Brown (left) loads a guided 120mm projectile as Anthony Martinez looks on. As the Department of Defense's premier test center for artillery and mortars, YPG is in the forefront of efforts to develop guided artillery and mortar projectiles.

## Viewpoint

*At press time, the National Football League was on the cusp of the divisional playoffs, in which the final four teams in the league's two conferences vie to compete in the Super Bowl on February 6th. We asked members of the workforce to put on their prognosticator's hat and tell us, "Which teams will be playing in the Super Bowl?"*



**Janine Shaffer, administrative officer, Resource Management:** I think the Steelers and Falcons are going to the Super Bowl, and the Steelers will win easily. My husband and I are major Steelers fans and they are clearly the best team in the NFL.



**Gabe Langbauer, meteorologist, meteorology team:** I think it will be the Baltimore Ravens and the Green Bay Packers. Aaron Rodgers is getting hot at the right time. Good defense wins championships, though, and the Ravens have had the best defense for years. With Ray Lewis in the lineup, they will be extremely tough to beat.



**Eusebio Lopez, senior test director, Tropic Regions Test Center:** Green Bay and the Patriots, and Green Bay will win. I'm a Cowboys fan, and I don't want the Patriots to get too close to the Steelers and Cowboys' number of Super Bowl victories. Actually, the Packers are the first team I remember as a kid: I watched them on TV in the first Super Bowl. I think it was broadcasted on CBS and NBC simultaneously back before cable, so that gives you an idea of how old I am.



**Jason Green, test officer, ground combat:** I think it will be the Steelers and Falcons. I don't watch a lot of football, but my team is the Cowboys. When I was a kid, Arizona still didn't have a team, and had the Cardinals franchise changed its name to something that made sense in Arizona, I would have liked them more.



**Audra Lemme, management analyst, RM:** I'm originally from Pennsylvania and I've been a Steelers fan since I was seven years old, so I'm definitely rooting for them to win the Super Bowl. I think it'll be a Steelers-Packers Super Bowl, and the Steelers will win.



**Richard Smith, pilot, SeAir:** If the Steelers get past the Ravens, I think they have an excellent chance of going all the way. Tom Brady and the Patriots have been really hot, though. In the NFC, I don't like the Seahawks at all. Even though the Falcons have been hot, I think it will come down to a tough match between the Packers and Bears. I have a feeling that Jay Cutler will fold like a K-mart lawn chair, so I predict the Super Bowl teams will be the Packers and Steelers.

## How to deal with anger

by Paul J. Kilanski, Family Advocacy Program Specialist

Everyone feels angry sometimes. You may feel additional pressures from combat, moving, deployment and other situations unique to military life. These events may make you frustrated and angry. But, it's okay to get angry!

Anger is a normal and healthy emotion. It can help you defend yourself in an unfair situation. Sometimes it motivates people or creates change. But if anger is too intense or happens too often, you might need to take steps to deal with your emotions in healthier ways.

You may have a problem with your anger if it gets in the way of ordinary life, alienates people or damages relationships, turns into rage or explosive outbreaks or is held in and not expressed. Anger can be caused by combat situations or memories of traumatic or life threatening events. Having a friend or relative die can cause anger as well as grief. Anger can be caused by internal struggles or worrying about personal problems. Even simple things like a rude person or a traffic jam can sometimes make us angry.

We need to find healthy ways to express anger. Talk to the person you are angry with or talk with a supportive person about your feel-

ings. Writing can help you vent your anger. You do not need to show it to anyone. Exercising can help diffuse intense emotions. Avoid reacting with yelling, hitting or other out-of-control behaviors. Avoid drinking or taking drugs to deal with your feelings.

You usually can't control the person or event that made you angry but you can control your reaction. Control violent reactions (such as wanting to yell at or hit someone). Walk away from the situation until you feel calmer. Treat others in a way you want to be treated. Agree to disagree and leave it at that.

Ignoring angry feelings is unhealthy too. Hiding or holding in emotions can lead to increased blood pressure, depression or a bitter or hostile attitude. Do you sometimes feel so mad you think you will explode? Do you feel like hurting yourself or someone else? If so, get help now! Talk about what is going on with a trusted friend, family member or commanding officer. Contact your medical provider, therapist or chaplain. You may be able to get help from a military family service or support center. Try counseling or an anger management program.

Anger can be a healthy expression of strong feelings. But if you have frequent outbursts, you can get help and you can learn to cope in a more positive way.

## Vision (Continued from page 2)

enable us to begin with the end in mind. Once we have a shared vision of what right looks like, we can figure out how to get there from here. We can eliminate random activities and focus all our efforts on the initiatives that will have the greatest impact on Soldiers, Civilians and Family members.

We started 2010 by producing version one of the Installation Management Community's Campaign Plan. The Campaign Plan laid out a vision, strategy and way ahead for providing the programs, services and facilities that support Soldiers and Families. With the Campaign Plan and the three fundamental questions as our guides, we have continually challenged ourselves to improve our performance.

Some of our efforts are visible to those we serve. For example, based on feedback from Soldiers and Families, we have enhanced delivery of several vital programs, including the Exceptional Family Member Program, Survivor Outreach Services, the Total Army Sponsorship Program, the Army Substance Abuse Program and the Army Continuing Education System.

Many of our efforts will not be immediately apparent to those outside of our workforce. For example, we are reducing the number of administrative regions from six to four and integrating the Family and Morale, Welfare and Recreation Command into IMCOM Headquarters. Soldiers and Families will see no difference in the quality of support or number of services they receive, but behind the scenes, we will be working smarter. We will streamline delivery of services to our customers and generate savings that can be applied to Soldier and Family programs.

Now, as we build a shared vision

of what the Installation Management Community should look like in November 2011 and lay out the plan to achieve that vision, we will continue to challenge ourselves to go beyond what we already know and are comfortable with. We will continue to look at the shape and size of our organization and workforce. We will continue to reach out and build relationships with others committed to supporting Soldiers and Families, including universities, businesses, non-government organizations, and other government agencies. We will continue to identify, develop and align the resources, policies and processes needed to support Family programs, safety, sustainability, energy security and other priorities.

The process of developing a shared vision can be difficult for some, since it carries the possibility of change, but it can also be energizing, and it is important for us to do if we take our jobs seriously. For one, we owe it to our fellow citizens to be good stewards of all the resources entrusted to us. We always have to be mindful of how we impact the environment, how we treat our people and how we spend taxpayer dollars. If we do our job well, if we are good stewards of the resources entrusted to us today, then we will have the resources we need in the future.

An even more important reason is the Soldiers and Families we support. We are committed to providing a strong, supportive environment in which they can thrive. We do not chase change for change's sake, but if the only reason we do something is because we have always done it that way, then we can do better. We owe it to our Soldiers and Families to ask what right looks like and to make sure we are on track to get there.

# Children keep busy playing sports and other activities

by Kellie Pacella

Although we are into the new year, kudos are in order for Yuma Proving Ground's sports program, which sponsored two flag football teams and one cheerleading squad during the months of November and December 2010.

The Broncos flag football team made up of five and six year olds, was coached by Mark Kloberdanz and assisted by Rodney Thompson and Jon Cates, while the Vikings, ages eight to 11, was coached by Tony Muething and assisted by Justin Pakkala

The girls cheerleading squad, four to eight years of age, was coached by Aness Little and assisted by Amber Trevino. They took turns cheering at the football games that were held at the Marine Corps Air Station in Yuma.

For their effort and dedication to the sports program, the players and coaches were recognized at the Youth Service award ceremony sponsored by Holly King, youth sports director. Participants were presented with trophies and enjoyed a pizza party. A big thanks to all the volunteers, because without their support, this program could not be made possible.

Girls of all ages gathered at Cox Field for fun and celebrating life as a "military brat." The idea came from Haylee Navarre, who dressed up like a ballerina and paired the outfit with combat boots. The other girls dressed in tutus and danced around the field for their parents and those attending. While life for children whose parents are in active duty can be difficult due to the many moves and deployments, having friends to rely on can be a source of comfort for many children at YPG and throughout the military.



**Yuma Proving Ground's Vikings flag football team is determined to win, as they play with great emotion. (Photos by Kellie Pacella)**



**Cheering at the flag football games held at MCAS-Yuma, the cheerleading squad from YPG takes time out for a photo. The cheerleaders ranged from four to eight years of age.**



**Fancy in their colorful "tutus" and ballerina's best, young toddlers entertain their parents and guests during a fun day at YPG's Cox Field.**

# Army makes significant progress against accidents

submitted by the Safety Office

Brig. Gen. Wolf, DASAF and Commander of Combat Readiness/Safety Center sent out a memo to Army Senior Leaders on the Army's overall evaluation of the readiness posture of Safety for FY 10. The bottom line is FY 10, overall, was a good year. The key points are noted below.

He mentioned to "Senior Leaders" that during the past five years, our Army has made significant progress in the fight against accidents and preventable loss. Fiscal 2010 marked our second consecutive year of record-low accidental fatality rates and the fifth straight year of reductions in fatal on-duty accidents, both great news stories for the leaders, Soldiers, Families and Civilians doing the hard work every day. The first quarter of fiscal 2011 has surpassed even those achievements and set the bar high for our performance throughout the rest of the year.

Overall, accidental fatalities were down 16 percent from fiscal 2010 numbers during the first quarter. The momentum from the five-year on-duty downward trend continued with four Soldier ground deaths reported during duty hours versus six in 2010, but we experienced an increase in aviation fatalities after two accidents occurred late in the quarter. Total off-duty fatalities were down 14 percent from the previous year, with privately owned vehicle fatalities 24 percent below those recorded during the first quarter of 2010.

These statistics show our Army team has taken seriously the challenge of keeping all our Soldiers safe and in the fight, both on and off the job. He went on to say that he was confident we can build upon these successes and see even greater gains throughout the rest of the year, but we cannot let complacency affect our focus. Significant safety issues like risky behavior and indiscipline, especially off duty, remain critical threats to the health and well-being of our force and demand our full attention to curb these trends in the weeks and months ahead.

For off duty, he stated just as in 2010, sedan and other POV fatalities remained at or below the previous year's numbers throughout the first quarter. We began the year, however, nearly doubling our motorcycle fatalities. Of the nine Soldiers killed in motorcycle accidents during the first quarter, eight were leaders at the rank of sergeant or above. Although not involved in every case, speed and other forms of indiscipline, including aggressive driving and lack of personal protective equipment, remain primary contributors in many of our motorcycle incidents.

Lack of seat belt use was another recurring trend revealed during the first quarter. Of the six Soldiers lost in fatal POV accidents reported through 31 December, three were confirmed to have not been wearing their seat belts. The decision to not buckle up is an indiscipline issue leaders at all levels must address, and accidents like these provide clear examples of the consequences of deliberate risky behavior. Standards enforcement in Army vehicles has proven to be a tremendous asset in countering on-duty fatalities, and we have to let our Soldiers know these same standards exist even when they are away from work. Leader, Family and Soldier-to-Soldier engagement is key to this effort, with everyone reminding each other of the simple yet lifesaving power of a simple seat belt click.

Although off-duty personnel injury-other deaths typically comprise only a small percentage of our total fatalities annually, these accidents—led by falls—were on the rise during the first quarter.

By the way, several new tools and initiatives are planned for 2011, but the USACR/Safety Center has many great products in place now to help us reach our Soldiers on the importance of off-duty safety. The POV/POM Toolbox, available on the CRC website at <https://safety.army.mil>, contains a wealth of information to assist leaders and Soldiers in developing driving safety programs.

At the same time, there were challenges for the on-duty situation. No specific on-duty trends were evident among the four fatalities recorded during the first quarter.

Army combat vehicle fatalities were up 67 percent during fiscal 2010, so our continued engagement is absolutely critical to ensuring the safety of our drivers and crews.

He went on to discuss Fiscal 2011 Safety Initiatives. The USACR/Safety Center team has a number of exciting new initiatives in the works for 2011, so we should stay tuned to the CRC website and social media sites for the latest news. Just two weeks ago, the CRC released part two of the newly updated BOSS Safety Factor. The presentation and media kit will have our Soldiers laughing out loud as some of today's top comedians take a humorous look at the hazards of Army life. The CRC will continue with new releases at the beginning of each quarter through fiscal 2011.

He closed his message by informing Senior Leaders that by now, much of the United States has been touched by the chill of winter. All materials from this year's Safe Fall/Winter Campaign, including posters, informative articles, public service announcements and safety videos, are still available on the CRC website. These products offer commanders and leaders a solid foundation upon which to build their winter safety programs. Also, we should look for the release of our annual Safe Spring/Summer Campaign, scheduled to go live online at the beginning of April. Just as in years past, this campaign will provide over 15 topics to assist leaders in building their summer safety programs.

Thanks for your support in keeping "ARMY SAFE IS ARMY STRONG" for YPG. . .and remember One Team One YPG. . ., plus "NOBODY GETS HURT."

## Pilot (Continued from page 1)

eligibility, and spent five grueling years training and playing for the SIU Salukis. By the time he was invited to the Pittsburgh Steelers' training camp in 1972, he had endured broken fingers and a broken knee, as well as a broken foot on three separate occasions. When he reported to camp in Latrobe, Pa., he found himself on a team under legendary coach Chuck Noll that was on the cusp of becoming one of the most dominant in National Football League history. Present were future hall of famers Franco Harris, Joe Greene, Mel Blount, Jack Ham, and the exuberant quarterback Terry Bradshaw. Smith recalls sitting on a training table getting his ankles taped when Bradshaw walked by.

"He's everything you see on TV," Smith said with a smile. "He said, 'Hi, rookie! Welcome to the Pittsburgh Steelers!' and tore off some tape and

a big hunk of my leg hair with it."

Like the rest of the team, Bradshaw was all business on the field, however.

"In camp we ran wind sprints and Hanratty and Bradshaw would throw passes," Smith said. "I must have been 65 yards downfield from him, but Bradshaw hit me with a pass that stung my hands. He was an excellent, excellent quarterback."

Smith held his own in camp, but near the close he suffered another broken foot. This one required surgery and a bone graft to repair, which ended the ambition he had pursued since adolescence.

"I got cut right after picture day," Smith recalled. "After all those years playing, one day the coach calls you into his office and says you're done. It ends that quickly."

Worse, his backup plan of using his flying experience to join the Air Force

was impeded by a significant reduction in force that took place after the Vietnam War. He considered becoming a bush pilot in Alaska, but lacked start-up capital to get his venture off the ground. He completed his student teaching for his degree and attempted to join the Navy, but found the branch reluctant to accept him because of his age. It was at this point that he received a life-changing phone call from a Marine Corps recruiter.

"He called my home and asked if I wanted to fly with them," Smith said. "I said, 'You guys have airplanes?'"

He quickly learned that they did. During his career, Smith flew virtually every contemporary fighter aircraft in the inventory of the American military. He graduated from the famed 'Top Gun' Navy Fighter Weapons School, and became an instructor in both weapons and air combat tactics.

He served several stints at Marine Corps Air Station-Yuma, with his last post before retirement being that installation's executive officer. Though the job was more office-centered than Smith preferred, he simultaneously served as a pilot in the base's aggressor squadron, which simulates enemy aircraft in realistic training.

"I was still flying three missions a day in an F5 at 50 years old," Smith said. "It was a hoot."

Smith has never had an accident in his lengthy career, though he has had a few close shaves. A student pilot once collided with his plane near MCAS-Yuma, but he managed to land safely. Aircraft carrier qualifications in foggy weather off the coast of California saw him experience a tail hook skip while attempting to land, the loss of all his instruments while circling for another attempt and incorrect directional information from an air traffic controller before landing on an auxiliary airfield on San Clemente Island with a dangerously low fuel tank.

"The radar intercept officer in back was clearing the cockpit and getting ready to eject," Smith said. "When we landed, the fuel gauge showed 200 pounds left, and the F4's gauge was only accurate within 400 pounds."

Smith retired from the Marine Corps as a lieutenant colonel at age 50. He had no definite plans, but knew that flying would be part of whatever he did next.

"Flying is like a drug," Smith said. "When I'm not doing it, I'm miserable."

He acquired a rating for a 737 passenger jet in preparation for a career as a commercial pilot, but found the airlines reluctant to consider him because of his age. He settled for a job as a private pilot.

"I flew the rich and famous around in a Beechjet," Smith said. "Some were extremely nice and some were extremely difficult."

His passengers included baseball hall of famer Reggie Jackson, professional golfer Fred Couples and television personality Martha Stewart. But Smith found the job tedious, especially when it took him away from his family for days at a time.

"I spent more time in hotel rooms watching snow come down than anything else," Smith said. "That's why I quit. I wasn't flying enough."

An opportune pilot's slot at YPG gave Smith all the flight time he craved. Though the Casa propeller plane in which he ferries elite parachutists lacks the performance characteristics of the fighter jets he flew while in uniform, Smith says flying is rewarding no matter what kind of aircraft he's in.

"The Casa is different, but it isn't a let-down, for you are still flying," he said. "I enjoy turboprop planes, and the Casa reliably serves the mission."

At 61, Smith sees retirement on the distant horizon and assumes he will quit flying for good whenever that day comes. Surprisingly, the veteran pilot has never owned a plane of his own and has no plans to buy one. Nor does he intend to take up aerial activities like parachuting.

"The free fallers frequently invite me to jump with them," Smith said with a smile. "I tell them, 'I ain't jumping out of a perfectly good airplane. I've never had to and I never will.'"

## Family, Morale, Welfare & Recreation Happenings

