

THE OUTPOST

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

Volume 41 No. 4 July 25, 2011

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

YPG welcomes test commander

By Yolie Canales

In a comfortable and cool setting, Yuma Proving Ground welcomed Lt. Col. Chad Harris, new YTC commander and his family during the change of command ceremony where they also bid farewell to outgoing commander Lt. Col. (P) Stephen Milton and family.

Harris became the fifth commander of the Yuma Test Center and assumed the responsibility of 1,850 employees before an audience of family members, workforce and distinguished guests. "It's an honor and privilege to command this test center that has such a great reputation," said Harris. "It's going to be a great challenge and a lot of responsibility. I look forward to it."

Harris, who hails to YPG from the Robotics System Joint Project Office in Warren, Mich., where he was assistant product manager to the maneuver support, was selected to attend Officer Candidate School at Fort Benning, Ga., in 1994 after enlisting in the Army. Commissioned in 1995 as an Armor Officer, Harris served as an Armor platoon leader and Armor
see **COMMANDER** page 6



Lt. Col. Chad Harris (left) accepts command of Yuma Test Center from Col. Reed Young as outgoing commander Lt. Col. Milton (right) looks on.

PHOTO BY YOLIE CANALES

Dream blossoms for electronic engineer

By Yolie Canales

To dream of becoming a physician, actor, astronaut or even a firefighter is the dream of many children as they are growing up. However, sometimes life sends us in different directions, directions that were never in one's mind. Fernando Mezquita, chief of the Electronics Division at Yuma Proving Ground's Yuma Test Center, experienced just this.

WHO IS FERNANDO MEZQUITA?

"When I was growing up, my dream was to become a medical doctor, even though I was fascinated by magazines that featured weaponry stories, photos, inventions and such," said Mezquita, a 25 year civil servant. "Life can be unpredictable and my dream of becoming a medical doctor changed after high school when I decided to go into the electronic engineering field. Here I am today; doing a job that is fulfilling and

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Parachute riggers must stay ahead of the curve in test environment/Page 3



YPG premier location to train mine-detecting dogs Page 8



Get in on some paint ball action at the Fitness Center Page 13

YPG participates in food drive campaign

In many ways, America is the land of plenty. But for one in six Americans, hunger is an all too familiar reality. Many people believe that the problems associated with hunger are confined to small pockets of society, certain areas of the country, or certain neighborhoods, but the reality is much different. Right now, millions of Americans are struggling with hunger. These are often hard-working adults, children and seniors who simply cannot make ends meet and at times are forced to go without food.

Food banks across the country face severe shortages of non-perishable items. Federal employees nationwide are stepping up to meet this challenge by gathering 1.2 million pounds of food for families in need. This federal-wide campaign offers a great opportunity to help those who lack the resources to provide food for themselves and their families, and the Department of Defense (DoD) family is dedicated to protecting and looking after the interests of its fellow

Americans.

In order to encourage the widest possible donations to support America's families in need, DoD expanded the campaign by calling on the military services and defense agencies to become engaged in this effort. By expanding the campaign, military installations, organizations, commissaries, and others outside the Washington, D.C. metro area will have an opportunity to participate in this worthy cause.

The "Feds Feed Families" 3rd annual food drive runs through August 31. YPG is participating in this worthwhile activity and you can drop off your non-perishable food to one of the following locations: Roadrunner Cafe, ROC Garden Cafe, Coyote Lanes, Child Development Center, Youth Center, Fitness Center, Army Community Service and the commissary. Let's help those that are less fortunate than us. For more information, call Mardy Clark at 328-2332.

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All high school students who wish to explore educational and career options in Engineering are welcome to apply for this week-long STEAM Summer Engineering Institute scheduled to be held at AWC main campus from Monday, August 1st to Friday, August 5th from 8 am to 4:30 pm in room AS-101.

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For more information, contact William Laguna at (928) 502-4643 or wlaguna@yumaed.org. The STEAM Coordinator is Joseph Alonzo and he can be contacted at jalonzo@yumaed.org or (928) 502-5027.

GEICO donates to ACS



PHOTO BY MARY FLORES

Infant and toddlers with parents stationed at Yuma Proving Ground will be assured of safer vehicle travel thanks to a generous donation from Government Employees Insurance Company (GEICO) of Yuma. Russell Baas (center) GEICO representative, donates five infant/toddler car restraint seats to Army Community Services (ACS) representative Rosa Dayton for use in the Loaner Program. Command Sgt. Major Forbes Daniels, left, was also present to accept the donation. Since 1985, GEICO has donated over 11,000 infant and toddler car seats for use by military families throughout the Department of Defense. To learn more about the Loaner Program, contact ACS at ext. 2513 or stop by building 309 between the hours of 6:30 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday through Thursday.

**Next Outpost deadline
is noon July 28th**

Preventing parachute problems

Parachute specialists ensure problems don't occur by keeping skills honed

By Mary F. Flores

Editor's Note: This is the second part of a four part series.

Operations

Out of 2,200 Army Soldiers who hold the military occupation specialty of parachute rigger, only a small portion perform developmental test jumps for the Department of Defense, a mission performed right here at Yuma Proving

Ground. This group of elite Soldiers carries out hundreds of air drop test missions each year. Each must remain qualified and trained at a highly skilled level, keeping his or her skills honed, as well as maintaining equipment in tip top shape.

"If it's dropping out of an aircraft as part of a test, we're involved," said Sgt. 1st Class Dawit Gebregiorgis, noncommissioned officer in charge of ATF operations. "As test jumpers, we rig, pack, fold, jump and maintain parachutes and other equipment. We also inspect cargo before it goes up and when it's in the aircraft to ensure it's safe see **PARACHUTE** page 4



Sgt. Jerry Salinas, parachute test jumper, inspects an A-22 container delivery system to check the condition, looking for tears. Once the damaged section is removed, he will sew on a new piece of parachute cloth.

PHOTOS BY
MARY FLORES

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Jennifer Clark, parachute rigger and test jumper, stitches a parachute at the maintenance shop in the Air Delivery Complex. Clark, who served more than eight years in the Army, received training as a parachutist and performs static line and freefall jumps at YPG.



PHOTO BY MARY FLORES

PARACHUTE

FROM PAGE 3

to drop.”

Keeping up with the physical demands is one major challenge, but learning and applying technical know-how is critical. Some of these skills are taught at the three-week jump master school where riggers hone their skills as a parachutist.

“As a static line jump master, we must know how to properly inspect a jumper and know all the procedures and proper nomenclature in identifying equipment,” said Gebregiorgis. “In jump master school, students must fully inspect three combat equipped jumpers in five minutes, finding all deficiencies. It isn’t easy to do the first time round.” Jump master course students also learn the language of an aviator and get to know all safety procedures on the ground and in the air in order to be able to serve as a drop zone safety officer.

On a second tour at YPG is Staff Sgt. Edward Veloz, a veteran with nearly 20 years service. For Veloz, things are much different at ATF than in the 1994 to 1998 time period.

“I was a worker-bee and rigged loads and packed parachutes,” he said with a chuckle. “During my first tour, there were only Soldiers working for ATF and we rigged everything for all test projects, like container delivery system (CDS) bundles. We tested these to see how much weight could be dropped using various types of parachutes and release systems.”

CDS bundles tested in the 1990s are now being used to deliver food and ammunition to Soldiers on battlefields overseas.

As information flows to Veloz from test officers about future test requirements, he schedules and coordinates with each support group needed to carry out the mission. But ensuring ranges, drop zones and personnel availability is only half the challenge.

“In the planning stages, there is a lot of work to be done. For example, I arrange for crane operators to be onsite to lift and move loads weighing over 2,000 pounds, which are placed on low boy trailers to move from one place to another,” Veloz said. “In addition, I coordinate with medics from the Health Clinic to be at the drop zone for every test mission in case emergency medical care is needed.”

For test jumpers, training and honing their skills is constant. Veloz ensures they receive yearly mandatory training such as safety, security and jump master refreshers.

“Whenever we’re on the drop zone, a drop zone safety officer (DZSO) is on the ground at all times to ensure everyone’s safety,” he said. “In order to perform as a DZSO, being a qualified jump master is one of the requirements.”

Keeping things safe, the DZSO ensures the drop zone is clear of debris, cactus, vehicle traffic or anything that may interfere with a safe landing. In addition, the DZSO remains in contact by two-way radio with the aircraft and ground crews at all times, providing wind speeds to the pilot, because if wind speeds exceed 13 knots, it’s not safe to jump.

“It can become extremely dangerous for the jumper if winds are higher than that. High winds could cause a hard landing or other problems,” commented Sgt. 1st Class Juan Dolz.

Maintenance

When a parachute rigger descends from an aircraft at 18 to 22 feet per second, it’s comforting to know all equipment, especially the parachute, is going to function properly.

For experienced riggers, performing thorough equipment maintenance is second nature. Terry Horsman, engineering technician, and Jennifer Clark, parachute rigger and test jumper, both of whom served many years in the Army, have found

see **PARACHUTE** page 11

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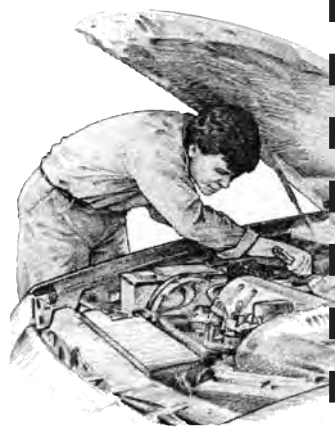
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- 1300-2100 One Buck Boogie
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- 1715-1815 Aerobics
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TUESDAY

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DREAM

FROM PAGE 1

rewarding, not to mention ever changing."

A "new kid on the block," Mezquita is not. Before coming to YPG in 1988, the California native worked at the Naval Weapons Station in Seal Beach, Calif., with missile firing testing, instrumentation, and telemetry. "I had the opportunity to come to YPG as an electronic engineer in 1988 to continue similar work, so I made the move," he said. "While at YPG, I was later afforded the opportunity to advance to a higher grade with lots more responsibility, so I made the move to Fort Huachuca, 10 years later."

Mezquita believes that to excel in a field, one must open its horizons and be a visionary so that you can learn as much as you can and be a great mentor, leader and well rounded person. After his move to Fort Huachuca, Mezquita was afforded another advancement opportunity and went to work in private industry for three years. "During this time, I learned of the electronic division vacancy at YPG. I applied for it and was selected. Even though I took a big cut in pay, I was extremely happy. It's an honor to be back to the place I call home."

THE ROLE OF THE ELECTRONIC DIVISION

"The electronic division's role in the YTC mission is vital and demanding. My staff of 38



PHOTO BY YOLIE CANALES

Fernando Mezquita answers a phone call at his office regarding a scheduled test change.

government employees and 120 contractors support not only ballistic but also automotive testing," said Mezquita. He explained that his employees must have strong electronic and computer backgrounds, for most of their work involves working with computer technology in one form or another.

The majority of the staff has experience with a wide range of sensors and transducers ranging from accelerometers, strain gauges, pressure, position, and corresponding

see **DREAM** page 7

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PHOTO BY YOLIE CANALES

Harris (left) introduces his wife, April (center) and family to Lt. Col. (P) Stephen Milton (back to camera) at the change of command ceremony.

COMMANDER

FROM PAGE 1

company executive officer in 2nd Battalion, 34th Armor Regiment, 1st Brigade, 1st Infantry Division at Fort Riley, Ks. After the Armor Officer Advance course, he served as the company commander in 3rd Squadron 3rd Armored Cavalry Regiment at Fort Carson, Colo., deploying to Iraq in April 2003 as the headquarters commander. He returned to the U.S. where he served as Observer/Controller Team Lead, training National Guard and Reserve units for deployment to Iraq.

Harris' awards include the Bronze Star with "V" device, the Bronze Star, the Meritorious Service Medal, the Army Commendation Medal and the Army Achievement Medal. He is accompanied by his wife, April, and son, Gryffin Douglas.

"Thank you everyone for being

here today. A special thanks to my wife, April for her love and patience and my family who traveled from Mississippi to be here today. Thank you all for all you do to allow me to serve the Army," said Harris. "I would especially like to say thanks to all the Soldiers standing here today for their professionalism to the service."

Milton, who had been commander of the test center's mission for a little over two years, is leaving YPG one year early due to his promotion to colonel. He will be stationed at Offutt Air Force Base in Omaha, Neb., where he will serve with the U.S. Strategic Command. "It's been a fast two years," said Milton. "It's bittersweet for me but most of all, it's been a rewarding experience in my military career." During Milton's tenure, there were numerous significant accomplishments to

see **COMMANDER** page 7

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COMMANDER

FROM PAGE 6

include the busiest two year period in YTC history which accounted for 96 percent of the entire YPG test mission. YTC accounted for 27 percent, of the Developmental Test Commands entire workload in FY10 with over 2.7 million direct labor hours and is expected to surpass

record FY09/10 work levels by the end of FY11. In addition, YTC grew to 1,850 military, civilian, and contract employees the largest in its history.

Milton thanked the YTC employees for all their dedication and professionalism and for all the accomplishments achieved under his command.

DREAM

FROM PAGE 5

signal conditioning, computing and high technology data acquisition equipment that plays an important role in providing measurement solutions to weapon and ammunition systems testing. The division is also responsible for maintaining and operating all tracking radar systems assigned to YTC in support of testing. "We have a diverse mix of tracking radars operating in numerous frequency bands," he said. "These systems are used to provide support for testing at YTC areas that exceed range boundaries and, at times, support testing at other facilities such as the Electronic Proving Ground, White Sands Missile Range and Cold Regions Test Center."

CHALLENGES

Like any other division supporting the test mission, the hiring freeze is one of the biggest challenges he faces, but he says, "We're managing." Mezquita often tells his staff to fully understand how the division does business and then look for options like using information technology to help perform duties better. By using options such as Lean Six Sigma and technology such as new software, computer systems and new data acquisition systems, he feels YTC can continue to provide the same future support to customers even without additional personnel.

WHAT MAKES A GOOD CHIEF

Mezquita believes that a good leader is someone who understands what his employees are doing, their needs and long range goals. He also says you have to get to know people personally, interact with them, help them to enhance their skills so they can perform better, and open doors to achieve their educational goals. "Education, training and experience are the heart of my division," he said. "Lead by example," he says, "for you must be a good mentor, but don't micro-manage. Be there for them. When my employees shine, then I, as chief, and the entire division shines as well."

Mezquita trusts in the judgment and credibility of division personnel to do the job efficiently. "I'm not an 'empire builder,' he said. "I'm simply a talent magnet who strives to identify and use the genius in each person. My job is to provide the tools and the space to yield growth, and remove impediments that consume our limited resources."

WORDS OF WISDOM

Mezquita believes in working closely as a team. "There is an old saying in India: Nothing grows under a banyan tree. It provides comfortable shade, but it allows no sun in for growth underneath. I am not a leader who is like a banyan tree – one who impedes intelligence and prevents growth."

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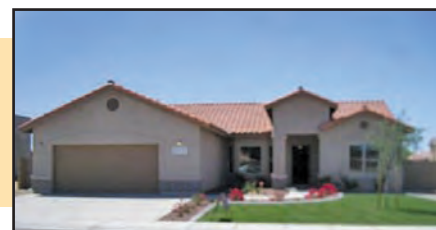
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Mine Detection Dogs Trained at YPG

Hundreds of dogs, handlers preapre for overseas deployment at YPG

By Mark Schauer

YPG's training of military working dogs has earned enough attention for the proving ground to be recognized as the premier training center of the invaluable animals. It is widely known that each year the proving ground prepares hundreds of dogs and handlers for deployment overseas, as well as many for duty with civilian law enforcement agencies.

Less well known is the sheer diversity of the working dog mission in the United States military, and YPG's support of every aspect of this vital training.

"Many people think YPG's dog training consists of one school," said Luis Arroyo, chief of YPG's Training Exercise Management Office (TEMO). "In fact, there are eight different programs from multiple branches of the military. They may look similar, but each is managed separately and each has a unique mission."

Among the eight is the Mine Detection Dog School based at Fort Leonard Wood, Mo., which conducts both initial qualification and final pre-deployment testing of specialized working dogs and their handlers at YPG.

"All teams must pass certification in accordance with International Mine Action Standards," explained Sgt. 1st Class Harry Franco, Non-Commissioned Officer in charge of the program. "It is not an easy task. Unlike other military working dog programs where you can pass with 95 percent, these Soldiers have to score 100 percent. If they don't, they aren't sent

The Mine Detection Dog School has used YPG's countermine facility for final pre-deployment training since 2004. "We come here because YPG's environment is the closest representation to Afghanistan available," said Sgt. 1st Class Harry Franco.



PHOTOS BY MARK SCHAUER

The Mine Detection Dog School also conducts qualification training of rookie handlers. "All teams must pass certification in accordance with International Mine Action Standards," explained Sgt. 1st Class Harry Franco, Non-Commissioned Officer in charge of the program.

downrange."

Improvised explosive devices get the bulk of media attention, but the danger of conventional mines to Soldiers is just as great. Though anti-personnel mines have been banned by the vast majority of the world's nations, 37 countries have not signed the treaty to cease manufacture and use of the weapons. Additionally, many countries are contaminated by devices that are decades old. In Afghanistan, American forces have to contend with an estimated 10 million such legacy mines, as well as new devices placed by insurgents. YPG has the expertise,

facilities, and geographical features working dog units need to train realistically.

"We come here because YPG's environment is the closest representation to Afghanistan available in the continental United States," said Franco. "I would say that it is 95 percent accurate to Afghanistan."

Training

The leaders of the Mine Detection School want dogs that are energetic and committed to pleasing their handler, but not mindlessly compliant.

"Our goal is selective disobedience," said Staff Sgt. James Simpson said. "If

the dog always does exactly what you want, you could push it off an odor or cause it to indicate falsely."

Empathy with the working dog is particularly important in a job as tedious and demanding as mine clearance. Early in their training, prospective handlers are given an up-close look from their working dog's perspective when they are required to crawl through a marked lane while blindfolded in search of a cookie, using only their sense of smell.

"It sounds funny, but usually by the time they get to the end of the lane or find the cookie, Soldiers are lightheaded and feel as if they've run seven or eight miles," Smith said. "That's how fatiguing it is for dogs working in hot and tough environments."

Handlers mitigate the effects of this with frequent rest breaks and by always ensuring that their canine colleague has plenty of water. It is also important for a handler to modulate his or her voice in such a way that the working dog retains interest in the job at hand. Careful control of emotion is critically important for any dog handler, especially one engaged in a mission as dangerous and painstaking as mine clearance, where one mistake can have catastrophic consequences.

"We always say, 'your emotions will travel down leash,'" said Simpson. "A handler has to let it go for the dog to do its job, or there will be a cascade effect."

Testing

Antipersonnel mines are indiscriminate in their mayhem, often claiming civilians long after hostilities have ended. The explosions cause gruesome injuries and massive blood loss. Rapid medical care for the victim can mean the difference between life and death.

"If you get to a person in the 'golden hour' after they have been wounded by a landmine, their likelihood of survival is 80 percent," said Franco. "After the golden hour, it drops to 20 percent."

As part of pre-deployment testing at

YPG, working dogs and their handlers have to successfully 'rescue' a Soldier wounded by a mine and surrounded by simulated undetonated devices. Clad in a padded blast suit and helmet with face shield, each handler leads their working dog to sweep a one meter wide path - narrow enough to reach the victim quickly, but wide enough for medics to traverse while carrying a stretcher. Each Soldier does this by brushing a long cane across the part of the ground they want to clear while encouraging their working dog to "seek," then mark the cleared portion with small white flags. If the dog indicates the presence of a mine, the handler carefully surrounds the area with red flags before proceeding.

"A standard combat engineer would take hours to extract a casualty from this minefield," said Franco. "We train

see **DOGS** page 10



Sgt. Roque Espinoza praises his working dog, Lady, for a job well done during pre-deployment training at YPG.

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YPG is home to eight different working dog programs from multiple branches of the Armed Forces, but mine detection working dog teams must cope with unique challenges, such as wearing protective gear that muffles a handler's voice. Though improvised explosive devices get more attention, American forces in Afghanistan have to contend with an estimated 10 million legacy mines, as well as new devices placed by insurgents.

DOGS

FROM PAGE 9

these teams to do it in 45 minutes."

Traversing the 250 feet in the scenario is an intense challenge for the handler. Sweating in the stultifying heat under the padded suit, the handler has multiple distractions other than potential land mines and the pressure of the clock to contend with. People wounded by mines are oftentimes crying or screaming in pain, and the handler must both reassure the victim that help is on the way and keep the working dog calm and focused. The volume and inflection of the handler's voice, critical to giving commands, are muffled and deflected by the face shield, an inescapable reality the handler must compensate for to succeed. The terrain is also dotted with desert scrub and other obstacles that must be considered.

"Sometimes the direct line of sight is not the quickest way to a casualty," said Franco. "We try to train the

handlers to work smarter, not harder."

As the instructors looked on, a handler finally reached the victim after detecting one last mine directly beside the prone Soldier. Had this been in combat overseas, the handler may well have had to administer first aid to their wounded buddy and carry him or her out across the cleared path. Regardless, at the first possible moment the handler would also praise their dogged four-legged companion who made the successful rescue possible.

The Mine Detection Dog School has utilized YPG's countermine facility for final pre-deployment training since 2004, and plans to keep doing so indefinitely.

"The support we get at YPG is outstanding," said Franco. "We have a good rapport with the personnel at the countermine site and explosive ordnance detection technicians. They can read our minds most of the time. TEMO makes everything run smoothly."

What's happening in Yuma

By Yolie Canales

Summers in Yuma are pretty darn hot. Many take off to the cool beaches in Southern California for entertainment which can be pretty costly. Many of us fail to take a look at Yuma's activities available at a very reasonable cost. Some of these activities take place in the coolness of air conditioned environments and/or during the evening when the sun goes down.

Mon. and Tues.: July 25-26 & Thurs. and Sat July 28-30. 7:35 p.m. - Yuma Scorpions vs. Maui Na Koa Ikaika at Desert Sun Stadium. For more information, log on to: www.yumascorpions.com

Fri. and Sat: July 29-30, 7 p.m. - The musical "Thoroughly Modern Millie" presented by Infinite Imagination Youth Theater at Historic Yuma Theatre, 254 S. Main Street. Reserved seating is \$5 available at www.YumaAZ.gov/events

Fri. and Sun: Aug. 5-7 & 12-14, 7 p.m./2 p.m. - The play "Doubt, a parable" presented by 5 Point Theater Company at Historic Yuma Theatre, 254 S. Main Street. Reserved seating is \$10 available at www.YumaAZ.gov/events

Sat., Aug. 6, 7 a.m.-1 p.m. - Indoor Swap Meet at Yuma Civic Center. Vendor spaces are \$20.

Admission is \$1 at the door, free parking. Call 373-5040 for more information.

New to hunting?

Game and Fish is partnering with sportsmen's groups, gun clubs and conservation organizations to host mentored first-time events and camps to assure a positive experience hunting in the great outdoors.

Oct. 15 & 16: Quail hunting camp

Location: Yuma area

Hunt Unit: 45A

Hosted by: Yuma Valley Rod and Gun Club and Game and Fish

Contact: Chris Bedinger at cbedinger@azgfd.gov, or call 928-341-4045.

Look for more family fun time events in the next issue of the Outpost under "What's Happening in Yuma."

PARACHUTE

FROM PAGE 4

that making repairs to parachutes and sitting behind a sewing machine is a routine part of life.

"My first tour of duty, many years ago, was with a maintenance unit at Fort Bragg, all I did for several years was work on the tables sewing and repairing parachutes," Horsman said with a smile.

Ensuring things are going smoothly in the aerial equipment repair section, commonly referred to as the maintenance shop, is 22 year Army veteran Staff Sgt. Armando Amado, noncommissioned officer in charge. Working under the direction of Sgt. 1st Class Jose Cervera, foreman, Amado oversees personnel and inspects parachutes to ensure proper packing procedures are being followed.

During a busy mission week, meaning test drops are being conducted, the bay area of the aerial

test cargo facility buzzes with teams of personnel. Everyone works together and this elite group of men and women may be assigned to work in other sections temporarily, pulling together as one team to accomplish the mission.

"Anything that comes in to this shop after a test drop must be inspected and, if it needs repair, we fix it," Amado said. Typically, two civilians and three Soldiers work in the maintenance section on any given day.

"Usually, when a sewing machine breaks down, I get to fix it myself," said Amado, a self-taught repairman. "From parachutes to oxygen tanks, I ensure everything is maintained in working order and I assist with parachutes being packed whenever necessary." It takes a rigger anywhere between 30 and 90 minutes to pack one parachute. Approximately 15 parachutes are packed each day.

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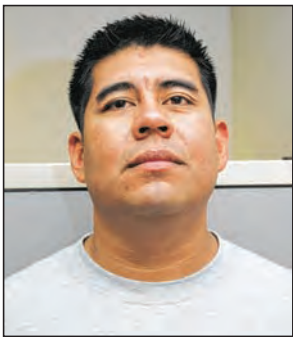
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VIEWPOINTS

This has been a busy mission week for ATF Soldiers supporting the airdrop test mission. We asked, "If you could have your dream job, what would it be?"



Sgt. Jerry Salinas, Maintenance worker

I would be a head coach in the National Football League. I grew up watching football and love it. I played college football in Illinois and played three years at the semi-pro level. Recently, I coached a semi-pro team here in Yuma and we won nine games and lost one. Unfortunately, we lost in the playoffs. That's what I enjoy the most — football, football and more football!

Sgt. 1st Class Juan Dolz, NCOIC

If I could have my dream job it would be a pilot of an A-10 Air Force fighter jet. I like this aircraft because they can fly at low altitudes around 50 feet above the ground. One of the reasons I joined the Army and the rigger field is because we come in contact with different types of aircraft and I enjoy parachuting from airplanes.



Sgt. Paul Black, III, Parachute rigger

I would be a neurological disorder and disease researcher because my child has a neurological disease. It would be great to find out more about the disease and learn what causes it. When my wife was 18 weeks pregnant with our child, we found out the baby had Dandy-Walker Syndrome which is a cyst that develops on the cerebellum. It can't be removed and the symptoms can be moderate to mild, affecting coordination and balance. It would really be cool to find out what causes it and find a cure as well.

Sgt. 1st Class Jose Luis Cervera, Jr., Shop foreman

For my first dream job I would be a point guard for the Los Angeles Lakers, but I'm not tall enough, so my second choice would be a "stay home dad." This way I could spend more time with my five children. My children range in ages from the oldest being 17 to the youngest at three years old. This would be a great job!



U.S. Navy Combined Tactical Training Ranges – (CTTR)

URS, combining its nationally recognized test and training range O&M capabilities with several prominent Teammate organizations, is bidding on the contract to provide operation and maintenance services necessary to support the CTTR in the Spring of 2012. We are eager to reach dedicated, mission oriented candidates possessing knowledge and experience of DoD training ranges in the following backgrounds listed below:

- Site Manager - EGG57024
- Range Control Specialist - EGG57039
- Mission Coordinator - EGG57041

For immediate consideration, and to review the complete job description, visit our website at: www.urscorp.com, click on Careers, career possibilities, enter the requisition number listed above, and then click on Search. To apply, simply click on "apply" and follow the instructions to submit your credentials.

US Citizenship required. AA/EOE



Sgt. 1st class Dawit Gebregiorgis, Operations NCO in charge:

I would be an interpreter for the American Embassy in North Africa. I would speak and translate in the language of Tigrinya which is spoken in Eritrea, North Africa. I was born in Northern Africa and still speak the language. If I could have this dream job, it would give me the opportunity to assist the United States Army by being a translator, helping protect our country against foreign and domestic enemies.

Sgt. James LaPorte, NCOIC

Serving in the Army is my dream job! Ever since I was a little kid I wanted to be in the Army because my grandfather and father both served. I have been in the Army for 12 years and hope to make it a career. I get to jump out of airplanes and serve my country and it doesn't get much better than this.



Fitness Center knows how to have fun!



PHOTOS BY FITNESS CENTER STAFF

Getting ready for a real paint gun fight are left to right, Kevin Pond, Holly Yarbro, Mike Dickerson and Adam Rinne. The paint ball complex is equipped with every target one can imagine. The staff at the fitness center encourages everyone to come by and check it out.



Luong Nguyen and Andrew Hayden have it out as they compete in the table tennis tournament held at the fitness center. The winner received a trophy for his participation in the event.



Most recently, the YPG Fitness Center sponsored an '80s Rock & Skate event which drew some pretty unique and awesome attires. Showing off their style are left to right: Serenity Johnson, Kellie Pachella, Sandra Martinez and Steve Ward.



Yuma Proving Ground golf enthusiasts gather at Las Barrancas Golf Course to play in the recent tournament sponsored by GEICO and IGH Army Hotels. Over 70 participants played and had a great time!

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Yuma airport offers a haven for military families

By Chuck Wullenjohn

Military families and temporary duty travelers sometimes spend hours waiting in airports for connecting flights or ground transportation. As we all know, this can be a dreary, boring experience, especially for children who yearn for activity and stimulation.

Yuma is a community that honors its military and steps forward when it sees a need to be filled. Local volunteers established a lounge dubbed the "military comfort center" at Yuma International Airport last summer to offer a comfortable haven for military travelers. A lounge like this had never previously operated in Yuma and now serves an average of 450 travelers each month.

"I've been contributing between 18 and 20 hours each week since the center first opened," said Janice Senderling, lead volunteer. "I had never done anything like this, but I wanted to contribute. Knowing people receive pleasure and satisfaction gives me a good feeling inside."

Nearly 30 volunteers work at the center today, a significant decrease from the 77 who volunteered when it first opened. Most are retired or military spouses, but others are winter visitors and average citizens. The low number of volunteers causes Senderling to worry.

"This is the lowest number of volunteers ever," she lamented. "Many people have scheduled vacations starting next month, so we definitely need new volunteers. All you have to be is a person who wants to give



Military personnel and families (active or retired) can relax in these comfortable loungers as they wait for their next flight out.

PHOTO BY MARK SCHAUER

back."

The center operates seven days each week between the hours of 6 a.m. and 6:30 p.m. It offers three large screen televisions, two computers and internet access, reclining chairs and sofas, toys and books for kids, as well as beverages like coffee and lemonade, and fresh baked cookies. Cookies are baked throughout each day in a specialized "instacook" oven at the rear of the lounge.

"Some of our boys have what I would call a 'healthy' appetite," said Senderling with a laugh. "Some don't have much money in their pockets and warm cookies are just the thing."

She says being a volunteer at the lounge is akin to being a hotel concierge, for volunteers often provide local information and maps to customers. They sometimes phone taxi cabs or contact military officials to report that Soldiers or Marines are waiting for transportation.

"We've even had people stay inside the lounge overnight," said Senderling. "We maintain a supply of blankets and pillows, and allow people to sleep on our

recliners."

Linda McFarland is another volunteer who has worked at the lounge since last summer, putting in about eight hours per week. "I read about this in the newspaper when it first opened and have found it wonderful," she said. "I'm proud of our men and women in uniform and this allows me to channel my patriotic emotion. I encourage others to volunteer."

Senderling says YPG Commander Col. Reed Young visited the lounge the weekend after his change of command ceremony when he brought his son to the airport to return home. While his son worked on a homework assignment on a computer, Young explored the lounge and talked to volunteers. "He seemed pleased with what he saw," she said.

The Yuma Airport's military comfort center is open to active and reserve military members and their families, as well as those who have retired. Official military identification cards are required. For information on becoming a volunteer, call Andrea at 726-5882.

Chaplain's Corner

Halo and Flame

By Chaplain (Maj.) Douglas Ball

I'm not sure if it was planned, but I do find it funny that the YPG Chapel can be found at the corner of Halo Street and Flame Street. How ironic that one is confronted with a choice as you come to chapel: do I go down Halo, or should I take Flame? It would be even better (and biblical!) if Halo Street were narrow and Flame Street were broad!

The Bible does tell us that we all face this basic decision though Matthew 7. "Enter through the narrow gate. For wide is the gate and broad is the road that leads to destruction,

and many enter through it. But small is the gate and narrow the road that leads to life, and only a few find it."

While I believe these verses do have implications for eternity, I think it's important that we realize that they are primarily about our journey here and now. Immediately prior to these verses, Jesus shares with us the 'Golden Rule' of doing to others as we would have them do to us. Immediately after these verses, Jesus tells us that we need to bear the fruit of that 'Golden Rule.'

Just as fruit trees provide nutrition and sustenance for life, our actions in taking the narrow

path provide life for ourselves and those around us. In our jobs, in our relationships, and in our lives, we all need to do the hard things, the little things, the unpopular things that are constructive rather than the easy things, the tempting things, and the selfish things that are destructive.

If you want to get to the YPG Chapel, either Halo or Flame will work. But if you want to truly know abundant life, you must choose the narrow path. "So in everything, do to others what you would have them do to you, for this sums up the Law and the Prophets."

YPG Chapel Bible School runs August 1-5

The Vacation Bible School (VBS) theme this year at the YPG Chapel is Panda Mania!

Classes will be at 8:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m., Monday through Friday from beginning August 1-5.

The chapel will cooperate with the Child Development Center and Youth Services to get the children in their care to their preferred places during the week. Registration forms are available at the chapel office for pre-registration. Final registration is Sunday, July 30 from noon to 2 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall of the chapel.

For more information, call Kathy Crain at 785-6437 or the chapel at 328-3465.

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LASIK (laser in situ keratomileusis) is an out-patient surgical procedure used to treat nearsightedness, farsightedness, and astigmatism. With LASIK an ophthalmologist uses a laser to reshape the cornea in the front of the eye. This improves the way the eye focuses light rays on to the retina at the back of the eye and subsequently improves your vision.

Does LASIK work?

More than ninety percent of those who have LASIK achieve somewhere between 20/20 and 20/40 vision without glasses or contact lenses. In many cases the need for eye glasses and contacts is reduced significantly or eliminated.

Who is a candidate for LASIK?

Generally speaking a large portion of the adult population can benefit with LASIK. It cannot, however, correct all vision impairments. Before the decision can be made you must have an eligibility exam and consultation. The doctor will ask questions about your medical history and give a thorough eye

exam designed to determine if the procedure is appropriate for your individual case. The doctor will also talk about the benefits, risks, available options, and preparation and recovery associated with the surgery to ensure that your goals and expectations are realistic.

How is LASIK done?

LASIK is an out-patient surgical procedure usually performed in an ophthalmologists surgery suite. After the eye is numbed with a few drops of topical anesthetic a hinged flap of corneal tissue is created using an automated microsurgical device. The surgeon will then use the laser to sculpt the corneal tissue. Upon completion the corneal flap is placed back into position. No stitches are required.

While some patients report some discomfort or pressure on the eye, pain is not associated with this procedure. It is important to remember that the procedure is surgery and you should know the qualifications of the surgeon as well as the technological status of the equipment being used. Like all surgeries, the patient needs advance knowledge.

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About Dr. Aiello



Patrick D. Aiello, MD

Dr. Aiello received his MD degree from the University of Michigan. After completing both an Internship and Residency in Internal Medicine at the University of North Carolina, he finished a Residency in Ophthalmology at the world renowned Mayo Clinic in Rochester, Minnesota. He is board certified in both Internal Medicine and Ophthalmology.

In addition to caring for his patients at the Aiello Eye Institute, he is an examiner for the American Board of Ophthalmology, and a clinical instructor for the Midwestern School of Osteopathic Medicine in Phoenix. He is a Senior Flight Surgeon and State Air Surgeon for the Arizona National Guard.

Having performed more than 15,000 surgeries, he is regarded as one of the state's leading eye surgeons.

Dr. Aiello is the only Ophthalmologist doing Lasik and PRK in Yuma, Arizona.

Aiello Eye Institute

Dr. Aiello organized the Aiello Eye Institute in Yuma in order to provide world-class eye care to the community. With a highly trained staff and associates utilizing only the latest technology and equipment, the Aiello Eye Institute provides the areas most comprehensive and patient-centered vision healthcare. Your vision is our mission.

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