

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

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A salute to Yuma Proving Ground's top-most Soldiers

by Yolie Canales

Yuma Proving Ground boasts some great Soldiers, so selecting two as "best of the best" each year is a difficult task. After a great deal of deliberation and thought, the 2010 selections were announced at February's Winter Formal Ball. They are Staff Sgt. Paul Goeman, selected as YPG's Non-Commissioned Officer of the year, and Spec. Chung Ho Kuk, as Soldier of the year.

These selections were based on being Soldiers who consistently demonstrated strong leadership, moral and ethical character, excellent duty performance, contributions to the local community, and were highly motivated, valuable team members. They are both physically fit, mentally tough and have trained their subordinates to be proficient in war-fighter skills.

"Our Soldiers and NCO's cannot just be proficient in military history and Army manual skill testing, but must continue to hone their war-fighter skills," said YPG's Command Sgt. Maj. Forbes Daniels. "This is of the utmost importance and require-

ment of any logistician, transporter, medical specialist, or human resource personnel in an operational Army organization."

Goeman, health care specialist and NCOIC at the health clinic, is an eight year veteran from Visalia, Calif. He has been at YPG for 15 months and will soon depart for Fort Campbell, Ky. A deployable unit is not new to Goeman, who has served a tour of duty in Iraq where he was a senior medic. "I've enjoyed my duty time at YPG," he said. "It is very much like the small community in which I grew up. I will miss it, but duty calls and I must move on."

In the line of duty, Goeman says the challenges are few. "The only challenge I face on a daily basis are the constant changes in the Army," he said. "However, with the good information our Command Sgt. Maj. passes on, we adapt and carry on."

A hiker and motorcycle enthusiast, Goeman believes what helped achieve this title was the dedication to his job

(See Soldiers on page 7)



Staff Sgt. Paul Goeman (left) NCOIC of the YPG Health Clinic, goes over patient records with Spec. Chung Ho Kuk, patient administrative specialist, to assure the records are updated per the clinic's standard office procedures. (Photo by Mark Schauer)

New system produces dust storms on demand



The Blowing Air Dust and Sand System developed by YPG personnel is critical to testing equipment's survivability in desert conditions. (Loaned photo)

by Mary F. Flores

There's a new beast on Yuma Proving Ground, capable of producing wind speeds exceeding 60 miles per hour, creating an environment of blowing sand and dirt that accurately mimics natural dust storms for up to 90 minutes. The only one of its kind, the Blowing Air Dust and Sand System (BADSS) is capable of putting any piece of equipment through the grueling paces of sand and dust testing in weather conditions comparable to combat areas overseas.

When it comes to testing equipment for the Soldier, YPG is definitely on the map, and testers from all over the world bring their equipment to Yuma for testing with state-of-the-art equipment and knowledgeable, experienced personnel. YPG has earned the title of 'expert' in desert sand testing.

Working many overtime hours and building from scratch, it took a team of engineers from YPG's Metrology and Simulation Division over one year to develop the BADSS.

The BADSS project began well over a year ago when the division mounted a

Chevrolet 454 cubic inch air-boat motor on a trailer. "This system was designed to perform outdoor sand and mixed sand dust testing on various types of equipment," said Michael Schwitzing, general engineer for YPG's Metrology and Simulation Division.

The purpose of sand and dust testing is to determine the survivability of equipment in a sandy, dusty environment. The system can be used to determine whether seals and filters effectively keep sand and dust out of compartments and machinery. In addition, munitions are tested to see if the effects of the simulated environment degrade performance.

"Prior to the BADSS, YPG didn't have the ability and all the mixed sand and dust testing was performed by personnel from the Electronic Proving Ground at Fort Huachuca, which required engineers to travel here and be detailed here for several days, which was quite expensive," said Schwitzing. "Developing our own capability with very little cost was the way to go."

Schwitzing, a graduate of the Uni-

(See New system on page 8)

News Notes

Air Show takes place March 26

The 49th annual Yuma Air Show will take place Saturday, March 26th, from 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. at Marine Corps Air Station Yuma. The theme to this year's Air Show is, "The Centennial of Naval Aviation," and nearly 100 aircraft will be on display, including vintage B17 and B25 bombers. YPG's extensive static display will include the Army's newest combat vehicles and artillery pieces, all of which are tested at YPG, as well as photo displays and hands-on exhibits. Visitors can meet YPG testers, Soldiers from the Airborne Test Force, and the jumpers from the Military Free Fall School who will open the event. Admission is free!!

A friendly reminder: Safety Awareness Week: April 11-14

Course topics will include a wide-array of safety related training and workshops specific to the mission at YPG.

Based on Army-wide initiatives, courses focusing on healthy living and off duty hazardous activities have been added to the schedule. The safety office is taking a holistic approach to accident prevention this year and hopes that you will take advantage of the variety of courses being provided.

All supervisors shall ensure employees attend a minimum of eight hours of safety training and will approve all course selections. Your collateral duty safety officers or assigned personnel will input your class registration.

Registration takes place March 28 through April 5.

Please attend only the courses that you have registered for. If a class exceeds the maximum attendance allowed by the registration website, roll call will be administered and those not registered will be asked to either leave the course or give up their seat to a registered employee.

Please call the Safety Office at ext. 2660 with any questions or last minute recommendations.

Congratulations to Price Elementary School March Go-Getters from Mrs. Edwards 4th and 5th grade class.



Gage Grisham



Julianne Miller

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AFAP committee resolves 17 quality-of-life issues

by Lt. Gen. Rick Lynch

I often say you can read about history or make history. This year, the voices of Soldiers, civilians and Families that have contributed to the Army Family Advocacy Program (AFAP) process were heard and history was made at the recent AFAP General Officer Steering Committee held the first week of February.

Senior Army leaders and program representatives from across the Army resolved 17 of 40 quality-of-life issues making great strides in support of our Wounded Warriors and Families. These issues originally identified by AFAP representatives at the unit or installation level will make life better for Soldiers and their Families for years to come.

Qualified Wounded Warrior job applicants now receive greater visibility in the federal government hiring process. Major accomplishments include the integration of the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) Veteran Resume Inventory (VetSuccess.gov) into the Army recruitment process and the designation of human resource specialists as veteran employment coordinators. To learn more about this issue, visit the Army OneSource website at <https://www.myarmyonesource.com/familyprogramsandservices/> and search for issue number 617.

Through issue number 610 we have expanded treatment for Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI) patients. Traumatic Brain Injury screening, identification, treatment, and rehabilitation services are now in place at each Army medical treatment facility. To date, TBI programs at 40 facilities have achieved full validation, 10 have achieved initial validation and the remaining programs will receive full validation by this month.

Wounded warriors will benefit from the availability of standardized respite care for their caregivers through TRICARE and VA (issue number 630) and through the establishment of the Army Wounded Warrior Support Network (AWWSN), (issue number 632). The AWWSN is a support program that connects severely wounded, injured and ill Soldiers and their Families to a network of resources in the local community.

Three initiatives were completed in the Family support category. These initiatives provide for more affordable child care to those who need it the most (issue number 566), TRICARE coverage for children up to age 26 (issue number 632), and a policy revision that requires Initial Military Training Soldiers with exceptional Family



Lt. Gen. Rick Lynch

members to receive new assignment instructions if the OCONUS travel approval authority has not notified the Soldier of the availability of EFM services 30 days prior to the Soldier's graduation (issue number 639).

Ten of the 17 issues resolved were designated as unattainable due to resource or legislative constraints. Although the AFAP recommendations were unattainable, progress was made on many of the issues. An example of this is the increase in administrative and PCS weight allowances for grades E1 to E4 and E7 to E9, establishment of a hardship-based increase to PCS weight allowance, and 500 pounds of spouse professional weight allowance. To learn more, visit our website and search for issue 457.

The Army will continue to work the issues, but the Army Family Action Plan is your program. I encourage you to learn more about the AFAP process by visiting the Army OneSource website at <https://www.myarmyonesource.com/familyprogramsandservices/familyprograms/armyfamilyactionplan>. From here you can follow the progress on issues that are currently being worked by selecting "Active Issue Search" at the bottom of the page and then search by issue number or by keyword.

The website also allows you to submit a new issue directly to your garrison or command's AFAP process and provides AFAP brochures, articles and videos to download. You can also download the "HQDA AFAP Issue Search" application for free on your iPad®, iPhone® and iPod Touch®.

My next article in this series will review the 16 new quality-of-life issues AFAP delegates identified as being the most critical and our need as an Army community to identify inefficient, redundant, or obsolete Family programs so we can redirect those resources to where we truly need them.

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

Freefall instructor, fisherman named 'Angler of Year'

by Mark Schauer

Around the year, whether it be cool and windy winter mornings or scorching summer afternoons, Yuma's hardiest fishers float atop the Colorado River and Lake Martinez, patiently angling for the next big catch. It is a sport of endurance and savvy, and Yuma's current fishing champion is part of the YPG family.

Sgt. 1st Class Al Hatton, a 13-year Army veteran currently serving as an instructor in the Military Freefall School's Advanced Tactical Infiltration Course, was recently named Yuma's Professional - Amateur (ProAm) 2010 Angler of the Year.

"It was pretty competitive," Hatton said of the event. "There are a lot of good fishermen in Yuma."

To win Angler of the Year, Hatton bested 35 other hard core fishers in the tournament. The prize package included a plaque, a custom fishing rod, and \$100, as well as a free entry in Western Outdoor News Bass, the west coast's premier bass fishing tournament, which offers lucrative payouts and prizes.

Fisher for life

Hatton has about 700 jumps in his freefall career, an occupation he took up after joining the Army in 1997. Fishing, on the other hand, has been a personal passion since a family vacation in early childhood.

"My first memory of fishing was on Lake Michigan with my dad, dip-netting for smelt off the beach," Hatton recalled. "I was probably four or five years old. From that time on, any creek or pond that I could walk to growing up I tried to put a hook and line into."

Hatton says fishing and hunting were a way of life where he grew up in Tenn., and he continued to do so in his free time at every duty station he served at. He fished for salmon in Washington state and tarpon in Florida. He once caught a six and a half foot-long shark from a pier while stationed at Fort Bragg.

"A shark will eat just about anything," Hatton said. "You cast out and catch something, then use it on your hook. The biggest shark I caught was with a big fishing rod and a stingray as bait."

Though Yuma doesn't have fishing like that, Hatton was still eager to get his line wet, and came across the Yuma ProAm tournament while doing an internet search for information about the local fishing scene. The competitive challenge appealed to him, and he signed up.

"I've always fished, but I had never strictly bass fished," Hatton said. "Tournament fishing is a lot different. It pushes you to actually catch fish, and I think it made me a better fisherman."

The ProAm rules are simple: contestants compete in monthly tournaments. A random drawing pairs boat-owning pros with boat-less amateurs, who are then allowed to fish anywhere accessible by water from Fisher's Landing, on the Colorado River at Martinez Lake. Contestants have a five-fish limit, each of which has to be at least 13 inches long. The fisher from each category with the heaviest catch gets the most points for the tournament and the point totals accumulate for the entire year.



Sgt. 1st Class Al Hatton, Yuma ProAm's 2010 Angler of the Year. (Loaned photo)

"The ProAm is great for anybody who wants to fish," said Hatton. "You don't need a boat. You get to go out with someone who knows what they're doing, and all you need is a fishing pole."

The fishers keep the captured bass in a livewell, an aerated tank built into the boat, then release them at the conclusion of the tournament.

"I don't keep any bass," Hatton said. "By putting them back in the river, we can catch them again. The river has better fish for eating, anyway - blue gill, catfish or stripers."

Hatton began as an amateur, but soon decided he wanted to compete at a higher level. He searched for a sturdy aluminum vessel ideal for negotiating shallow parts of the Colorado River, and eventually found the perfect boat in Arkansas. That he was willing to drive 1,500 miles to pick it up is only one indication of the seriousness with which he approached the competition.

"I have nearly one fishing rod for every lure I carry," Hatton said. "Typically on my boat I carry 12 fishing rods of different sizes and lengths."

The largest bass Hatton caught in last year's ProAm tournament was 6.64 pounds, the sixth largest among the pros. He caught a fish that exceeded seven pounds in the Yuma Bass Masters' tournament, which he entered as a sideline venture, as well as two eight pound whoppers while fishing independently over the course of the year. His best months were in the summer, where he was able to fish as many as five days per week.

He observed that it was cooler on the river during these months than in the lakes, and that the fish like this and the current.

"I'm getting used to the summers here, but it still feels hot," Hatton said. "Every once in a while you have to stop fishing and jump in for a minute to cool off."

Strong Contender

By September, Hatton's persistence had resulted in a first place finish in June, and second place finishes in five other months. Overall, he was in first place by a narrow margin, with the runner-up nipping at his heels and two other pros within a plausible position to create an upset. To heighten the suspense, the competition's organizers declined to update the standings for the final three months of the tournament until the new year, reasoning that keeping the rankings under wraps would inspire maximum participation.

"I was keeping track and knew I was going to be up there, but there was one other guy who was fairly close," Hatton said. "It kept me on my toes."

Future

Hatton shares his hobby with his three daughters, though at this time his youngest is the only one who has avidly taken to the sport.

With another year left at YPG, Hatton looks forward to defending his championship, but plans to keep fishing only as a pastime.

"I'll fish in a few more local tournaments, but I don't plan to go pro or anything," he said.

What do you know about CFLs

Do Compact Fluorescent Lights contain mercury?

CFLs contain a very small amount of mercury sealed within the glass tubing – an average of 4 milligrams (mg). By comparison, older thermometers contain about 500 milligrams of mercury – an amount equal to the mercury in 125 CFLs. Mercury is an essential part of CFLs; it allows the bulb to be an efficient light source. No mercury is released when the bulbs are intact (not broken) or in use. Thanks to technology advances and a commitment from members of the National Electrical Manufacturers Association, the average mercury content in CFLs has dropped at least 20 percent or more in the past several years. Some manufacturers have even made further reductions, dropping mercury content to 1 mg per light bulb.

What precautions should I take when using CFLs in my home?

CFLs are made of glass and can break if dropped or roughly handled. Be careful when removing the bulb from its packaging, installing it, or replacing it. Always screw and unscrew the light bulb by its base (not the glass), and never forcefully twist the CFL into a light socket.

How should I clean up a broken fluorescent bulb?

Fluorescent light bulbs contain a small amount of mercury sealed within the glass tubing. When a fluorescent bulb breaks in your home, some of this mercury is released as mercury vapor. To minimize exposure to mercury vapor, EPA recommends that residents follow cleanup and disposal steps. Please visit epa.gov/cfl/cflcleanup.html for more information.

Should I be concerned about using CFLs in my home or should I take any special precautions due to the mercury in CFLs?

CFLs are safe to use in your home. No mercury is released when the bulbs are in use and they pose no danger to you or your family when used properly. However, CFLs are made of glass tubing and can break if dropped or roughly handled. Be careful when removing the lamp from its packaging, installing it, or replacing it. Always screw and unscrew the lamp by its base, and never forcefully twist the CFL into a light socket by its tubes. Used CFLs should be disposed of properly.

I have heard CFLs can overheat and smoke. Should I be worried? Why does it happen?

The vast majority of CFLs reach the end of useful life and fail passively. In some cases, electronic components in the ballast power supply (such as capacitors and resistors) may fail in a manner that will result in some smoke, odor, or discoloration (browning) of the plastic housing. The failure of some electrical components can result in an audible "popping" or "sizzling" sound. It is the function of the ballast housing to contain such failures and prevent the plastic or failed components from igniting. GE

(See CFLs on page 7)

CRTC tests thermal weapons sight at Fort Wainwright; Soldiers train, too

by Clara Zachgo

When you combine 40,000 rounds of ammunition and minus 47 °F temperatures, the result is an ideal condition for the US Army Cold Regions Test Center (CRTC) to conduct extreme cold weather testing on a Thermal Weapons Sight (TWS). In the acquisition community of the Army, program managers must ensure the equipment they are developing for Soldiers function in all environments, whether it is a hot, dry desert or a cold, snowy arctic. Since CRTC is the Department of Defense's only natural, cold environment test center, a vast array of military equipment is sent to CRTC to undergo this type of testing.

This winter test season, test officer Isaac Howell, a former Capt. in the Army, has been tasked with numerous projects testing Soldier equipment. One of his assignments was to test the performance of a TWS in the cold environment. This test was unique. In addition to the week the test team would spend on Donnelly Training Area performing target recognition trials, they also traveled two hours away to Fort Wainwright for the target engagement and accuracy portion of the test. Howell, who had been stationed at Fort Wainwright during his time in the Army, knew the available training assets on the installation and how beneficial they would be to his test.

Fort Wainwright has small arms ranges equipped with electronic scoring capabilities. Electronic scoring allows real time feedback on the system under test. The importance for the TWS test Howell said was, "it



The Cold Regions Test Center (CRTC) recently conducted extreme cold weather testing on a thermal weapons sight. The test took place in temperatures so cold that touching bare metal would cause instant frostbite.

allowed us to monitor and develop the test results in real time, as opposed to manual scoring. Manual scoring would not afford us the opportunity for real time analyses." Electronic scoring also allows the test officer to "to hone in on test participants who are having a difficult time in employing the system; identifying that early is critical, an individual left untrained will skew the data."

While testing at Fort Wainwright, the test team logged over 1,490 test

hours in temperatures that did not rise above -30 °F. In these extreme temperatures, safety becomes a real issue. For instance, test participants had to be careful when handling the weapons the TWS was mounted on; touching the metal to any exposed skin would have led to instantaneous contact frostbite. Sgt. 1st Class John Schnering was the Non-Commissioned Officer assigned to the test. Schnering came to CRTC in 2009 from Fort Wainwright and said, "in my ten

years at Fort Wainwright, that week was the coldest week I ever spent on the ranges."

Not only was the test a success for the system, but also for the Soldiers from the 501st and the 509th out of Fort Richardson. They were able to gain valuable training from their role in the test. "The Soldiers were able to become familiar with new technology they will likely use in combat when they redeploy to Afghanistan in October of this year," remarked Howell.



In addition to the week the test team spent on CRTC's Donnelly Training Area performing target recognition trials, the Soldiers also traveled two hours to Fort Wainwright for the target engagement and accuracy portion of the test. (Photos by Mike Kingston)

For decades, Alaska test center boasts a photographer's photographer

by Mark Schauer

Precision photography is a vital aspect of any successful test of military equipment. Conducting it in extreme cold at U.S. Army Cold Regions Test Center (CRTC) in Delta Junction, Alaska, however, is a particularly daunting challenge.

Whereas a larger installation often has the luxury of multiple photographers, CRTC relies exclusively on one man to not only document tests, but also record the life and times of a small test center with a big mission: making sure that a Soldier's equipment works anywhere in the world they need it. Whether images of tests of artillery fire or combat vehicles or intimate shots of the majestic wildlife that calls the test center home, for the past two decades the general public's visual glimpses of CRTC have almost exclusively been those seen through the camera lens of photographer Mike Kingston.

With more than 20 consecutive years in his current position following a life-changing stint at the installation while in uniform in the early 1970s, Kingston has become an institution within the tightly-knit CRTC team.

"He was here three years before I came," said Dave Trainor, Allied Trades lead who has worked at CRTC for 35 years. "He gets out there and does whatever it takes to get the job done. Even when wind chills are at 60 or 70 below zero, he's ready to go."

A Photographer's Life

Born in Yakima, Wash., Kingston spent most of his childhood in the Los Angeles area. A photography class he took in the 8th grade sparked what became a lifelong passion for the art, but when he enrolled in Los Angeles Valley junior college as a journalism



For the past 20 years, the general public's glimpses of Cold Regions Test Center have typically been through the lens of photographer Mike Kingston (above). "I still love being downrange," Kingston said. (Loaned photos)



Though Kingston's first love is photography, he is passionate about playing the guitar. He is a member of two bands that play benefit performances around Delta Junction. "I'm into music for fun, not profit," Kingston said.

major, he received a draft notice. He opted to enlist in the Army instead. He was disappointed at not being assigned to photo school, but quickly adapted to being a rifle carrier and fully expected that he would be deployed to Vietnam.

"I was ready to go," Kingston recalled. "I wanted to run point with an M79 and a bandolier full of grenades. I thought I was invincible."

Fate intervened.

"Everybody in my company got orders to Vietnam except me," Kingston said. "Three days later they took away my weapon, gave me a camera and sent me here."

When Kingston arrived in 1972, CRTC was called Arctic Test Center and predominately staffed by men in uniform. The photo lab was manned by 14 Soldiers and one civilian. These days, the total uniformed population at CRTC numbers four, none of whom work as photographers. Today, every test project at CRTC relies on Kingston for photographic support and his colleagues find him equal to the task, which can be especially formidable during the extreme weather that is CRTC's prime time for testing.

"At 30 below, he has more energy than most people have at 70 degrees," said test officer Richard Reiser. "When there's something to photograph, he comes alive. Mike's work is well known in the test community. I have

heard numerous compliments from test customers about the quality of photos he has taken."

Kingston is no stranger to hard work or an active life. After leaving the Army, he spent 15 years as a firefighter and squad boss serving on wildland firefighting crews all over Alaska, and in between found time to work as a truck driver on the Alaska pipeline project, where he worked nights and spent days cross-country skiing around Prudhoe Bay. In the winter of 1989 he returned to CRTC as a civilian photographer. He still serves as a volunteer firefighter in Delta Junction.

Kingston's schedule of extracurricular activities would be daunting to most men half his age. In the summer he pitches for a softball team and is the oldest player in the 12 team league. He has played through bruises and even broken bones, and stays conditioned by avidly playing racquetball. When the racquetball courts are full, though, he plays basketball and volleyball.

"It's an adrenaline thing," explained Kingston. "I love to be up to bat when there are men on base. It's a great honor playing with such young bucks."

Kingston is even more passionate about playing the guitar, which he took up at age 28. He is a member of two bands, Lone Wolf Posse and The Differentials, and has even set up a home recording studio in his basement.

"The bands I'm in do more benefits than paying gigs," Kingston said. "I'm into music for fun, not profit."

Photography a calling

Despite all of these activities, however, Kingston's most ardent passion is photography. Since buying his first camera in 1972, a Canon F1, he has taken tens of thousands of photographs of life and nature in Alaska, which he feels is an ideal place for the art.

"In the long summer days, every tree, rock, bush and mountain is constantly changing its shadows," said Kingston. "It's magic zone for a photographer. I get to share great beauty with my fellow humans as a visual troubadour."

Kingston has taken photos in virtually every type of environment present in Alaska, including atop mountains and glaciers. These days he tends to use digital cameras for convenience, but still has a deep appreciation for film cameras.

"Without a doubt, I prefer film to digital," Kingston said. "They're not even close. It's impossible for a digital camera to capture shadow detail the way film does, and shadow detail is what I'm all about."

Some of his photos have taken on lives of their own. In 1973, for example, he took his first photos of the aurora borealis, the famed 'northern lights.' His Sgt. at Arctic Test Center encouraged him to enter one of the images in an Army contest that was judged by the-then photo editor of *National Geographic*, who selected the photo for honorable mention.

(See Photographer on page 7)

Viewpoints

With the ever popular Yuma County Fair just around the corner, we asked: What is your favorite attraction?



Irene San Roman, health advisor, Head Start: I enjoy the cinnamon buns because they are delicious, and I also like walking through the different types of exhibits. I have been attending the fair for the past 10 years and look forward to attending this year. It is always a lot of fun!



Kimberly Pastrana, engineering technician for TRAX, Data Acquisition: I like the rides mostly, especially the “Hard Rock” because it spins you all around and upside down. However, I can’t ride this year because I’m pregnant. I guess I’ll have to go for the corn dogs!



Dan Tobin, quality assurance specialist ammunition surveillance, Ammunition Plant: My wife loves the funnel cakes, and I like them too. They’re made with fry bread and white powder sugar sprinkled on top. Plus, I like the movie “Adventure Land,” and the fair reminds me of that movie.



Angeles Gutierrez, Health Promoter, Sunset Community Health Center: I like the kiddie rides because I love to take my granddaughters and watch their faces while having fun. I really enjoy making them happy.



Megan Cushman, supply technician, HAZMART: My favorite attraction at the fair is the food and beer garden, now that I’m old enough to enjoy a cold beer at the fair. My husband and I really enjoy eating pulled pork, shredded beef, Kamman sausage, cinnamon rolls and the fry bread. We love it all!



Tom Counts, mobility equipment armament tester, lead for Armored Systems Test Branch: Now that I’m older and my kids don’t go with me anymore, I like the fair for the good food. My favorites are Indian fry bread, grilled corn on the cob and the cinnamon rolls. I usually don’t eat during the day, so when I go to the fair in the evening, I try to eat all my favorites in one visit.

Are smaller cars as safe as large cars?

submitted by the Safety Office

Consumers shopping for a fuel-efficient vehicle will probably gravitate toward smaller cars. But by doing so, will they put themselves at risk in the event of an accident?

The cold hard facts show that smaller, lighter cars are generally less safe than larger, heavier cars. However, there is still a lot you can do to choose the safest small car. But first, let’s start with a little background.

Assuming you’re a safe driver, your chances of getting in an accident are really in “the other guy’s” hands. You are driving across an intersection and get broadsided by someone running a red light. Your odds of survival, or avoiding injury, are up to the design of the car and the safety equipment you’ve chosen. At that instant you will hope you have made a good decision and chosen a safe car.

Still, you can’t protect yourself against every danger. And life is full of trade-offs. You want to save oil and reduce emissions, but you also want to be safe. What do you do? You choose the safest car you can afford that also provides good gas mileage. Here are a few factors to help guide your decision.

The keys to a car’s ability to keep you alive during a crash involve safety equipment, the vehicle’s weight and its resistance to rollover. While small cars don’t roll over easily, they lack weight and are less likely to have advanced safety features like stability control or full side curtain airbags.

According to the IIHS figures, there were 96 fatalities per million registered vehicles for the small car category. That figure drops to 62 fatalities for the midsize class of cars and 64 per million for large sedans.

In the SUV category, the numbers drop substantially across all size levels. Although there has been an increase in the fatality rate of passengers in very large SUVs over the past three years, it still ranks as one of the lowest among other vehicle types. Interestingly, the size of the SUV driven didn’t make much difference; the death rate for a small SUV (48 per million) was only a point higher than that of a very large SUV.

The deaths in pickups are higher than any other category, even for the smallest pickups. This is because of their tendency to roll over.

Meanwhile, the lowest death rate among all vehicle types, 35 per million, belongs to very large sedans, which are both heavier and better equipped. So as a general rule, larger cars do tend to have fewer fatalities (with the exception of pickups). But remember to put these figures into perspective. These figures are comparing the differences *per million registered vehicles*.

“Crash rates for all vehicle sizes are dropping from year to year,” said Russ Rader, director of media relations for the IIHS.

Doesn’t Five Stars Mean Five Stars? You may be asking, “But what about my crash test rating? Doesn’t my five-star rating equal the five-star rating of a truck?”

The answer is no.

The first place most people go for safety information is the famous government crash test “star” ratings available at Safercar.gov or via the Insurance Institute for Highway Safety (IIHS), which rates crash tests from “Good” to “Poor” based on the driver’s ability to survive a crash.

But these ratings are only useful when comparing cars within the same size class. If a small car is rated five stars, that doesn’t mean it will protect you as well as large sedan with the same rating. The same holds true for an IIHS “Good” rating.

“The ratings are meant to be used to compare crashes with vehicles of similar size,” said Adrian Lund, chief operating officer of the IIHS. “You can’t really go between the segments with these ratings.”

The numbers show that you are far more likely to survive an accident if your car is highly rated, no matter the size. This is good news for the small car buyer who is looking for good fuel mileage.

For example: According to the IIHS, if you were to be traveling in a car that was rated “Poor” and got hit by a car rated “Good,” you would be three times more likely to be killed in the accident (if there was a fatality) than the other driver. Similar numbers from NHTSA bear out the same outcome, meaning the lower the crash test rating, the more likely you are to be seriously injured in an accident.

And the government requires that NHTSA’s star safety rating information be displayed on part of the window sticker on new cars (model-year 2008 and beyond). Consumers will be able to measure the safety information by the number of stars on the sticker, hence the nickname “Stars on Cars.” The new vehicle price stickers will show the results of front and side crash tests and non-destructive rollover tests.

So if you want a smaller car (for its fuel economy or lower cost), how can you get acceptable safety beyond reviewing the government and IIHS ratings? We recommend investing in as many advanced safety features as you can afford. At the top of your shopping list should be stability control and side-impact airbags. These features are fairly common and not particularly expensive. It’s also advisable to buy a car that can easily accelerate from zero to 60 in under 11 or 12 seconds, so you can manage tricky merging situations in high traffic areas.

Regardless of what you drive, though, all experts agree that *how* you drive is the most important safety factor. For information on safe driving, see the Edmunds Car Safety Guide.

Please stop by the Safety Office for brochures and videos.

Superior employees go the extra mile



Two NEC employees, Mandi D. Goins (left) technical support technician and Raquel Overstreet, personal computer technical support technician, were recently presented ICE awards by Rick Martin (center) garrison manager. Museum curator Bill Heidner also won an ICE award. (Photo by Mary Flores)

by Mary F. Flores

Nothing can be more frustrating than trying to log into your personal computer at work and find there's no connectivity. Each day hundreds of inquiries pour into the Network Enterprise Center (NEC) asking for help. At the help desk, technicians stand ready to serve the workforce. These employees troubleshoot computer problems and provide quick service, getting employees back online to complete their jobs.

Each quarter, YPG's garrison leaders recognize outstanding employees who receive numerous positive interactive customer evaluation (ICE) comments, making the program a method to improve customer service. Receiving the fiscal year 2010 Exceptional Customer Service Award for her dedication to providing excellent customer service was Mandi D. Goins, technical support technician at NEC's help desk.

Goins, has been working for NEC since October 2009, has played a vital role in answering and resolving technical problems and troubleshooting hundreds of help desk work orders. In addition, she has been instrumental in installing the IBM Lotus Same Time Connect program for hundreds of employees. The new program allows workforce members to connect and chat online live.

"In this job, I'm learning something new every day," Goins said with a smile. "This gives me great satisfaction knowing I can be of help to someone in need."

Also receiving recognition for providing excellent customer service during the 1st quarter of fiscal year 2011 was Raquel L. Overstreet of NEC's personal computer technical support team at the help desk. Since mid-2009, Overstreet has been providing customer service by answering telephone inquiries, emails, and has created hundreds of personal accounts for workforce members.

"The one thing I like most about my job is the customer interface, because when a job is completed and everything is operational, it gives me a great feeling to know I helped someone continue doing their job successfully," Overstreet said.

Bill Heidner, museum curator,

received recognition for his work in providing excellent customer service during the 4th quarter of fiscal year 2010. Heidner, who has been museum curator for six years, was instrumental in giving special tours of the Heritage Center and has brought many outreach programs to the community.

"I really enjoy giving tours to former YPG employees because it gives me the opportunity to learn the history of YPG, and I can thank them for their service in person," Heidner said. "These veterans provided the foundation for what YPG is today and their heritage is continuing. When they visit the museum they don't know what to expect and are overwhelmed with how advanced the Army has become with modern technology. They still feel part of the YPG team, which gives me a great feeling."

If anyone would like to recognize an employee for a job well done or provide a comment about a service through the ICE program, you can do so by accessing one of the many ICE machines located throughout the installation. Access can also be made through the internet by logging on to <http://ice.disa.mil/> and click on "Arizona" then "Yuma Proving Ground." Select, "Show all the service providers for Yuma Proving Ground" to see a list of all service providers in the system. Click on the appropriate service provider link to access the customer comment card and submit your comments.

If you do not have access to a computer, send your comment to: U.S. Army Yuma Proving Ground, Plans, Analysis and Integration Office, at 301 C Street, Bldg. 2100, Attention, Lorra Greene, Yuma, Ariz., 85365. For more information, contact Lorra Greene at (928) 328-3865 or through email at: lorra.greene@us.army.mil.

Next Outpost
deadline is
noon
March 24th

Photographer (Continued from page 5)

Years later, Kingston provided the image to the Delta Junction Chamber of Commerce for use on their website, which made it visible on internet search engines. When a London-based organization dedicated to the memory of Leopold Stokowski wanted cover art of the aurora borealis for a new CD of the famous classical music conductor leading an orchestra, it chose Kingston's photo from thousands of other images of the northern lights. Kingston consented to its use in exchange for a donation from the society to the Alaska Red Cross, an act of altruism that conforms with his philosophy of life.

"If you're ever bummed out and real poor, find something to give to somebody," Kingston said. "Do something to make someone else happy and you'll feel better right away."

Future

Alaska has been a state since 1959 and Kingston has witnessed and participated in nearly three-quarters of the state's history since that time. Though active as ever, at 61 he is beginning to contemplate a life after CRTC, especially since his younger daughter has graduated high school and begun classes at the University of Alaska at Fairbanks. He won't be leaving any time soon, though.

"I still love being downrange," Kingston said with a smile. "I would pay to see some of the stuff I get to see."

Soldiers (Continued from page 1)

and Soldiers. "I believe a good NCO is one who has the best interest of his Soldiers in mind," he said. "At this point in my career, it's not about me but what I can do for my Soldiers to empower them to accomplish their goals. Kuk is a prime example."

Spec. Kuk, a native of Korea, has been in the U.S. for seven years, with two years in the Army. He has been at YPG's health clinic for about 18 months as a patient administrative specialist.

Honored to have been selected YPG's Soldier of the Year, Kuk said it has been a big challenge to speak the English language fluently. "I find it hard speaking clearly but I don't give up," he said.

Kuk decided to join the Army while attending the Los Angeles Trade Technical College. "I always wanted to be a Soldier," said Kuk. "And, I believe that I was selected to be the YPG Soldier of the Year because I do my best all the time. I always want to set a good example for my fellow Soldiers."

A saxophone player in his spare time, Kuk said the Army has taught him to be strong. "I am grateful to the Army for giving me the opportunity to learn so much and teaching me about society and history. I like it very much and, at this point in my life, I plan to make the Army a career."

CFLs (Continued from page 3)

CFLs are ENERGY STAR qualified and meet UL standards, which require the materials to be self-extinguishing. It is the nature of fire retardant materials to exhibit some deformation or discoloration in a protective mode. At the first sign of any odor, smoke or erratic behavior, disconnect power to the lamp. Allow it to cool and unscrew it from the socket by handling the base, not by the glass.

I have a CFL that has produced a very unpleasant odor and some smoke when it failed. Is this common? Hazardous? What should I do if this happens in the future?

The vast majority of CFLs do not produce either an odor or smoke when the CFL either fails or reaches its normal end of life. However, CFLs, like many electrical or electronic products, can sometimes fail in a way where one of the electrical components or plastic materials will briefly produce a very irritating odor and possibly some smoke. Any smoke or odor produced is in a low concentration, which will not result in a hazard. However, in the relatively small number of cases where this might occur, it can produce a very pungent smell that is certainly not pleasant.

If this situation occurs, the easiest way to eliminate any odor is to follow the same approach that one would use to eliminate any other unpleasant odor or smell. Briefly leave the immediate area if it is very irritating. Next, after waiting 10 or 15 minutes, air out the room by opening any doors or a window if there is one. This will quickly dissipate the remaining fumes or smell. If available, a normal portable household fan or ceiling fan will accelerate the process.

U.S. Service Academies Conference slated for April 2

Senator Jon Kyl and Congressman Ben Quayle will host a U.S. Service Academies Conference for all Arizona high school students and their parents.

Representatives from five academies will explain this great opportunity for a FREE quality college education. The details of the conference are:

When: April 2, 2011 at 10:00 a.m.

Where: Camelback High School, 4612 North 28th Street, Phoenix, Ariz.

Cost: FREE

RSVP: <http://kyl.senate.gov/rsvp/>

Congressional staff will also be present to explain the required Congressional application and nomination process.

Educators are encouraged to attend as well and will also benefit from the information available.

Please feel free to share this information about the conference to other students, parents, and educators that might be interested.

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New systems (Continued from page 1)

versity of Arizona, led a team of engineers and technicians in the design and modeling of the BADSS. With the use of a computer aided design, the team developed the BADSS.

The BADSS consist of a hopper and conveyer which drop sand and dust into a wind stream generated by a 98 inch diameter fan. The air stream passes through a honeycomb air straightener prior to picking up the sand and dust material. It is an all inclusive system, meaning it includes one trailer which is hitched to the back of a truck and transported to the test site. Keeping manpower down, the BADSS only requires two operators

and a helper to conduct a test.

"We did lots of testing in various weather conditions and calibrated for weeks to determine the characteristics of the sand environment to see if the material was being distributed evenly," Schwitzing said. "Once the prototype was developed, we tested it until it worked. It was truly a team effort that helped design a portable platform and an operational piece of equipment that went into use last year. Thus far we have used the BADSS to conduct four separate tests."

Most tests have been conducted on automotive items such as radar

and antenna platforms. After each test is completed, the test item is inspected thoroughly and the results are recorded. On a recent mortar test, for example; each mortar was inspected for abrasions to see if any of the markings were worn away, or if they were damaged or compromised in any way from the extreme sand and dust environment. In addition, testers looked for sand and dust intrusion into the tail of the mortar.

"Most of the testing we do in this division is done in hot and cold chambers where the test item is isolated from outside environment," said Schwitzing. "With these types of tests taking

place outdoors, we are at the mercy of the environment whether it is hot, cold or humid and this can be a bit of a challenge, for it introduces many unknown factors."

Schwitzing went on to explain that YPG is self-supporting regarding the BADSS. "We are experts in sand and dust testing so if testers come to us with questions, we have the answers, he said. "If customers aren't sure what procedure to use, we can advise them because we have covered them all."