

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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Army Vice Chief pays call on YPG



Vice Chief of Staff Gen. Peter Chiarelli (right) prepares for an overflight of Yuma Proving Ground's test ranges. (Photo by Mark Schauer)

by Mark Schauer

Editor's Note: See related story and photos on pages 4 and 5.

Stars shone on Yuma Proving Ground in mid-February when Army Vice Chief of Staff Gen. Peter Chiarelli, Lt. Gen. William Phillips, and Picatinny Arsenal senior commander Brig. Gen. Jonathan Maddux witnessed a test of the soon-to-be-fielded Advanced Precision Mortar Initiative (APMI) and toured several test sites across the proving ground's vast ranges.

"This was a great opportunity for Gen. Chiarelli to see the APMI test as well as what else we do at YPG," said Larry Bracamonte, director of the Ground Combat Systems Directorate. "We're on the cutting edge of technology and want to make sure the systems we test are safe and reliable for the warfighter."

"People at the highest levels of the Army are knowledgeable about YPG, but may not know specifics about how we do things," added Julio Dominguez, YPG technical director. "I've met generals who are surprised about the diversity of our mission."

The high-level tour was staged with

extensive preparations. In addition to increasing security for the visit, numerous details had to be arranged, such as allowing for an earlier start to the day's firing and for the test to be conducted by manned as opposed to lanyard firing, as is customary.

"The test itself wasn't difficult, for we are accustomed to this program," said Claudia Anderson, chief of Munitions and Weapons Division. "But it took two weeks of planning to implement."

Witnessing the successful firing of the guided mortar was only the beginning of Chiarelli's day. Accompanied by YPG commander Col. Thomas Payne, the delegation proceeded by helicopter to the Joint Experimentation Range Complex, where they saw a demonstration of the Joint Precision Air Drop cargo parachute system, displays of unmanned aerial systems, howitzers, and ground combat vehicles that have undergone developmental testing at YPG, and an exhibition of counter-improvised explosive device technology that has been rapidly fielded after rigorous evaluation.

Chiarelli made a point of introducing himself to every employee he met

(See Chiarelli on page 8)

After eight year absence, council returns to Yuma

by Chuck Wullenjohn

Southwest Arizona's mild winter weather is a major attraction to casual visitors and business groups alike. The Range Commanders Council (RCC), which holds two annual meetings at locations throughout the country, took full advantage of this feature late last month by scheduling its meeting at Yuma's Hilton Garden Inn.

With nearly 100 people in attendance from across the Department of Defense, the purpose of the Range Commanders Council is to serve the technical and operational needs of test, training and operational ranges throughout the United States. The group identifies common needs, establishes technical standards, facilitates technical and equipment exchanges, and more. In essence, the council seeks to preserve and enhance the nation's warfighting superiority by ensuring that affordable technical capability and capacity is always available to support combat operations.

"The RCC gives stakeholders one place and one forum to discuss issues with the idea of leveraging solutions," explained Col. Thomas Payne, YPG commander. "As ranges move into and out of certain functions, ranges are able to 'cross level' resources, meaning they can transfer specialized, often

expensive equipment to other ranges that need it."

Several years ago, explained Payne, YPG was the recipient of radar systems that the Air Force no longer needed. For the cost of transportation, YPG obtained the equipment and was able to put it to worthwhile use. "This was an absolute savings to the taxpayer that came as a direct result of our active participation in this forum. The cost savings amounted to millions of dollars," he said.

A highlight of the three day meeting was an extensive YPG range tour that enabled council members to obtain a close-up view of some of the proving ground's unique facilities. "Everyone seemed quite impressed," said Payne. "Feedback was positive and amounted to 'wow!'"

Cindy Brennan, program analyst in YPG's Advanced Technology Directorate, helped prepare for the conference over the last six months and welcomed members each day. "Everybody jumped in to do their part and I give credit to a great many people who made this conference a success," said Brennan. "We tried to get things accomplished early so people wouldn't have to jump through hoops at the last minute. It was a pleasure to work with people throughout YPG and with the RCC's secretariat, which is a very efficient organization."

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.

News Notes

Scholarship applications available now

The Ketia4Kidz Foundation Adrian & Corena Swanier Scholarship Program is funded by a generous grant from the ASMBA Star Foundation.

Each Adrian & Corena Swanier scholarship for the 2011-2012 academic year will be in the amount of \$500 to \$1,000 per semester.

Applications that are not complete, or are not received by the March 15 deadline, will be disqualified and will not be submitted to the K4K Scholarship Committee for evaluation.

The K4K Scholarship Committee will consider an applicant's academic achievements, extracurricular activities, community service, and content of two (2) page essay. The two page essay needs to be about *your experiences* as a **"Military Brat."**

Decisions regarding eligibility for a Scholarship or the award of a Scholarship will be made by the K4K Scholarship Committee and are final.

K4K scholarships may not be applied to summer school, or to a special program or research project. If selected to receive a K4K Scholarship, the applicant will be notified in early May 2011. At that time, the applicant will be asked to submit a color photo and biographical information, as well as information regarding the College, University or Trade School he or she plans to attend. Once the information is received, a two-way check will be made out to the applicant and the educational institution of his or her choice. If an applicant fails to submit the requested information, his or her scholarship award may be in jeopardy.

Should you have any questions, or require additional information, you may contact: ketia4kidz@yahoo.com REF: 2011-2012 Scholarship.

Benefits/compensation available for victims of abuse

Overview

The United States Army opposes family violence. If you or someone in your family has been a victim of abuse, the **Transitional Compensation Program** can help you start a new life. Transitional compensation is a congressionally authorized program which provides temporary monetary payments and benefits to family members of service members who are separated from the military due to a dependent-abuse offense. The program is designed to help ease the unexpected transition from military to civilian life for eligible family members who have experienced abuse.

Eligibility

Dependents become eligible for Transitional Compensation under the following circumstances:

- The dependent must have been living in the home or married to the service member when the incident occurred
- The service member must have served at least 30 days on active duty.
- The service member must be convicted of a dependent-abuse offense and:
 - Separated from active duty under a court-martial sentence resulting from dependent abuse
 - Sentenced to a forfeiture of all pay and allowances by a court-martial which has convicted the member of a dependent abuse offense; or
 - Administratively separated from active duty for a dependent-abuse offense



Benefits

The Transitional Compensation Program provides compensation and other benefits for 36 months to eligible recipients. The following benefits are offered through the Transitional Compensation Program for the length of the entitlement period:

Monthly payments to eligible dependents based on the current Dependency and Indemnity Compensation (DIC) rates. Current DIC rates can be found **(See Benefits/compensation on page 8)**

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Employee moves workplace to Afghanistan

by Mary F. Flores

Excited and smiling from ear to ear, it's hard not to notice the high energy exuding from Diana Rapp, administrative support technician for Yuma Proving Ground Commander Col. Thomas Payne. Looking forward to a long journey, Rapp will board a plane in early March to travel across the globe for over 11 hours to her new workplace at Bagram Air Base, Afghanistan.

After reviewing job listings on the web several months ago, her interest was sparked. Rapp gave it some serious thought and decided to submit her resume and necessary paperwork for a job overseas and waited for a response. A few months later, the Civilian Personnel Office contacted Rapp to inform her that she had been selected for a six month assignment as a human resource specialist. Upon hearing the news, she says she became ecstatic.

Traveling overseas is not a new experience for Rapp, but visiting Afghanistan for six months definitely is. It is an opportunity, she says, "She couldn't pass up." Having served in the Air Force from 1976 to 1980, Rapp served both in England and in several locations within the United States. She also served in the Air National Guard and Air Force Reserve.

"During the time I served there were no wars or conflicts going on. I went through boot camp and a lot of training and didn't do a lot with it," she said. "All the bases I was stationed at were Tactical Air Command bases and we always remained ready for deployment. I want to put that training to use now and do something with it."

Prior to moving to her current YPG position, Rapp worked at TRAX International in the human resources office and as an administrative assistant in the Electronics Division. For the past two years, she has been managing the commander's calendar and performing a wide variety of administrative tasks in support of the proving ground mission.

"I love my job and working for Col. Payne, who is a wonderful commander and pleasant to work with. I also love the immediacy of the position, for work doesn't stack up — by the time it gets to this office, it's ready to process," Rapp said with a smile. "However, one of the challenges I face each day is keeping him on schedule with appointments. If he is running behind on any given day, I simply stand next to his office door, smile and subtly tap my wrist."

When asked what she will miss most about YPG while overseas, she said, "I will mostly miss the people who come through the door every day. I find it interesting to see how excited the workforce is about accomplishing their various projects. I have made many friends, and will miss them, though we will stay in contact while I'm overseas." During her absence, a job announcement will be made to temporarily fill her YPG position.

"I hope to return and retire from YPG someday, but who knows what the future will bring," Rapp said. "I'm excited and looking forward to the experience of seeing another culture in Afghanistan and, at the same time, learning a new skill set, which is a valuable asset."



Diana Rapp, administrative support technician for the Yuma Proving Ground commander, smiles as she enters an appointment in the commander's calendar. (Photo by Mary Flores)

Yuma Proving Ground showcases its vital mission at Arizona state capitol

by Yolie Canales

Abundant sunshine and great weather was the setting for Yuma Proving Ground's military equipment exhibit at the state capitol late last month. As members of the YPG workforce set out the day before to travel to Phoenix to deliver all the materials and equipment, the excitement and adrenalin began to build.

Gathering at the capitol at 5:30 a.m. the morning of the event, all 30 employees combined their best efforts to showcase the proving ground. A wide variety of things had to take place within a few hours, such as positioning equipment, erecting photo displays, setting up a tent, tables and chairs, and much more. The event featured a variety of military equipment and weapon systems in use overseas and colorful photo exhibits that portrayed the many aspects of the proving ground's mission.

"The behind the scene work that went on in past weeks was vitally important for success," said Alfred Hernandez, Visual Information specialist. "From flyers, invitations, posters, photo displays, equipment, and right down to the music, everything had to be top notch. Everyone came together to do a great job."

Representing the Tropic Regions Test Center was 24-year employee Martha Wright. "This was my first time to support this event and I'm impressed by the dedication I see all around," she said. "It was even more impressive to see our commander here the entire day, from beginning to end." YPG Commander Col. Thomas Payne met with a large number of exhibit visitors, concentrating on elected officials who came down from their capitol offices to eyeball the equipment.

YPG's exhibit was held for the purpose of enabling state officials to learn about the proving ground's huge national defense role and \$475 million annual economic impact. Equipment displayed included America's newest armored vehicle, an M119A2 105mm howitzer, technologies used to defeat roadside bombs, unmanned aircraft, three mortars, and more.

"I really want to thank everyone who helped arrange this event in any way, for it was worthwhile and impressive," said Col. Thomas Payne, commander, as the day wound to an end. "This was an excellent opportunity for officials to get close-up views of our newest military equipment and personally meet with subject matter experts. YPG's professionals came across very well."



YPG commander Col. Thomas Payne (right) greets Arizona state representative Jerry Weiers during his visit to the exhibit area. Full of questions and interested in seeing as much as possible, Weiers is former chairman of the House Military Affairs and Public Safety Committee.



Though aimed primarily at a target audience of state officials, kids of all ages were wowed by YPG's exhibit throughout the day. (Photos by Mark Schauer)



YPG mechanic Benjamin Bird (left) and test officer Richard Bloomfield (middle) show visitors the versatile M119A2 howitzer. Every newly manufactured M119A2 is fired at YPG before being issued to troops.



Peter Schaffer, chief of NACCITEC's Asymmetric Warfare Branch, explains YPG's efforts at combating improvised explosive devices (IEDs) to Rep. Russ Jones. Counter-IED testing accounts for a large portion of YPG's overall workload.



Television reporters are on hand as Col. Thomas Payne (left) talks with Arizona House of Representatives Speaker Kirk Adams, Yuma Mayor Al Krieger and State Senate President Russell Pearce (back to camera).

Yuma Proving Ground working to make

Proving ground in the forefront of efforts to deve

by Mark Schauer

The Army is in its 10th winter in Afghanistan, a country in which mountainous terrain often means the only practical method of providing indirect fire support is the mortar. In addition to being easily portable, emplaced and fired, mortars can be fired with high arcing trajectories invaluable in assaults on insurgents in mountains. The mortar's only drawback is its relative lack of accuracy, a fact that will soon change.

As the Department of Defense's premier test center for artillery and mortars, YPG is in the forefront of efforts to develop guided artillery and mortar projectiles. The technology has evolved to such a degree that it is now in advanced mortar testing with the Accelerated Precision Mortar Initiative (APMI). The program is truly accelerated: the completion phase began and ended last year, with the aim being to put guided mortars in the hands of Soldiers in Afghanistan

by early 2011.

"This will give the maneuver commander, for the very first time, a precision-guided mortar to use at their discretion," said Lt. Col. Norman Hilton, the Product Manager for Mortar Systems. "It gives us the ability to pinpoint precision fire and engage the enemy in situations that cannot be done now. Having an indirect fire weapon with the range and accuracy of this round is a valuable capability."

Hard-to-traverse mountain terrain and a rapidly-moving enemy are both good candidates for the mortar as a weapon of choice. Though well-suited for firing at steep angles, conventional mortars lack the degree of accuracy that allow forces to use them in populated areas or simultaneous to an infantry attack, a fact that APMI hopes to improve.

"A typical mortar can land anywhere within one hundred meters of a target," said Arturo Anaya, test officer at YPG's Munitions and Weapons Di-



Weapons operator Angel Daniel prepares the 120 mm mortar tube prior to test firing a guided round. Hard-to-traverse mountain terrain and a rapidly-moving enemy are both good candidates for the mortar as a weapon of choice, which makes the arrival of a guided mortar round eagerly anticipated in theater.



Mortar testing is a significant portion of the overall munitions and weapons mission at YPG. The round is accurate within 10 meters of a target, which is a significant improvement over conventional mortars.

vision. "The goal is to get this guided round within 10 meters of the target, Circular Error Probable (CEP)."

A recent test

The test's objective is to hit a target more than two and a half miles down-range, and the gun position is hosting about a dozen additional testers and observers from both New Jersey's PEO Ammunition, Picatinny Arsenal and Alliant TechSystems, the manufacturer of the guided round. While a typical mortar test is observed with one radar tracker and one high-speed camera, the APMI firing uses two radar trackers and three high-speed cameras at the gun, as well as two high speed cameras and a television camera at the impact site. The round is tracked in mid-flight by telemetry and a Kineto Tracking Mount, a massive optical tracking system.

Prior to firing, testers enter the coordinates of both the firing and impact site into the GPS guidance system on the 120 mm projectile. Until the round has been proven safe, the projectile is not dropped into the mortar tube by gunners as troops would do in theater: instead, a lanyard is attached to a

three-sided plate that the projectile's muzzle fits into. The plate allows the projectile to be suspended over the bipod-braced tube without falling, and is pulled free by the lanyard when all personnel are behind the reinforced concrete bombproof.

More to come

The successful test for accuracy is far from the only test the guided projectile will be subjected to prior to being fielded to troops. Next up are safety tests that will see the round put on a vibrating table to mimic being transported over rough terrain and various drop tests that simulate situations like accidental drops from a transport vehicle or while the projectile is being dropped into a mortar tube. All of these tests will be performed to get the item in troops' hands by early 2011, a feat that few test centers can equal.

"YPG is my favorite place to test," said Peter Burke, APMI deputy product manager. "The people and facilities are outstanding. No matter how many changes or last minute requests we have, they always find a way to make things happen."

Photos by Mark Schauer

mortars more accurate than ever

Top guided artillery and mortar projectiles



...on at Yuma Proving Ground, and no indirect fire weapon is more advanced than the ... whereas a conventional 120 mm mortar bomb is accurate within 100 meters.



Col. John Turner surveys the munition's impact zone as Adolfo Elizarraras and John Anaya look on. While a typical mortar test is observed with one radar tracker and one high-speed camera, the APMI firing uses two radar trackers and three high-speed cameras at the gun, as well as two high speed cameras and a television camera at the impact site.



Testers input the coordinates of the guided munition's target in advance of a test fire. "APMI gives us the ability to pinpoint precision fire and engage the enemy in situations that cannot be done now," said Lt. Col. Norman Hilton, the product manager for Mortar Systems. "Having an indirect fire weapon with the range and accuracy of this round is a valuable capability."



Weapons operator Thomas Brown loads the guided 120 mm mortar projectile. The advanced initiative to field a guided mortar round to troops meant heavy testing of the projectile at YPG for nearly a year.



Developmental testers usually want to see how their system can perform when conditioned to temperatures as low as -50 degrees and as high as 145 degrees, and YPG has conditioning chambers to accomplish this all year round. Here, test officer Arturo Anaya (center) and Pedro Bayanas (right) remove an APMI round from a conditioning chamber.

Dynamic speaker energizes Black History luncheon attendees

by Yolie Canales

“What a great day to come together and reflect, recognizing the contributions of African Americans to the history of our nation,” said guest speaker Sharon Moreland, director of the Bureau of Reclamation’s Administrative Support Office. She spoke at Yuma Proving Ground’s annual Black History luncheon late last month.

Since 1976, Black History Month has been celebrated annually in the U.S. during the month of February and is also referred to as African-American History month. Black History Month actually started as Negro History Week in 1926 with the goal of educating American people about the cultural backgrounds of African Americans and their achievements.

Moreland said Black History Month is not necessarily about blacks progressing solely for blacks. It is about anything blacks have done to contribute and make a positive impact on our society and the lives of its people.

“African Americans have shaped and molded almost every facet of American society,” said Moreland. “They have touched everything--- not only from our culture but also in the technological world with advances that have made our nation superior in the eyes of the world.”

She explained that this is not a black or white racial matter, but is about diversity. Although African-Americans have been forced to overcome many obstacles throughout



Yuma Proving Ground Command Col. Thomas Payne takes a photo with guest speaker Sharon Moreland and Chris Saucedo, deputy commander for the garrison, after presenting a token of appreciation for her dynamic and inspirational speech.

history, the U.S. is the world’s leader in freedom and equality. The nation’s strength is rooted in our diversity.

“The military is one of the most diverse workplaces I have seen,” said Moreland. “Even though I had my challenges while in the military, it taught me a great deal about diversity. It takes input from all genders, faiths, creed, nationalities and people from all walks of life for one purpose.”

In closing, she said, “I believe in order to be successful, it takes contributions of many. In addition, I learned that when it comes to diversity you

must get out of your comfort zone, because when we do, we grow. Our character lays out the path for our future.”

In addition to Moreland’s inspiring speech, lunch attendees were entertained by Margaret Curry from the Contracting Office, who recited a poem entitled, “Still I Rise,” by Maya Angelou. A Michael Jackson dance was performed by Kenny Brown, senior at Gila Ridge High School, and various samples of Southern soul food were available for tasting. A delicious fish fry was prepared and served by the Cactus Café.



Kenny Brown demonstrates some awesome and fancy moves dance numbers from the late Michael Jackson.

*Photos by
Yolie Canales*



Chris Saucedo, deputy garrison manager, presents certificates of appreciation to Black History committee members. Left to right are Margaret Curry, Tina Manns, Lonza Henderson and Frederick Chritian.



Volunteer Sam Cunningham (right) smiles as attendees line up to get a taste of the delicious soul food sampling and fried fish at the Black History Luncheon.



Tina Manns (left) smiles shyly as she joins Georgette Dilworth, Margaret Curry, Kenny Brown and Joeann Bailey showing off their goovy moves at the luncheon.

Weather prediction on YPG's test ranges is serious business

by Mary F. Flores

The average American pays attention to weather forecasts because he or she wants to avoid inconveniences. At Yuma Proving Ground, however, weather forecasts are serious business, for weather conditions directly impact mission success.

Each day, meteorological professionals spend hours poring over specially gathered data to make accurate predictions.

They release over 4,000 balloons per year throughout the rugged ranges of the proving ground, often times at the break of dawn to aide in the success of hundreds of test missions. In addition, there are 27 weather collection grid towers, located in remote locations throughout the installation to collect data. The result is an extended weather forecast released by YPG's Meteorological (MET) team by 7:30 a.m. daily.

Remaining flexible and prepared to assist with any test mission, every member of the nine person team spends time servicing weather towers and equipment throughout the entire installation. Working around the clock and putting in hundreds of overtime hours each year, the MET team supports every test mission conducted on the proving ground, with people sometimes driving hundreds of miles down range, beginning their day at 4 a.m., and ending when the sun goes down.

During the hot summer months, it can be exceptionally grueling for those working outdoors and performing laborious jobs. Therefore, the MET team provides an important and critical piece of data to the workforce



Gabriel Langbauer, meteorologist for Yuma Proving Ground's Meteorological (MET) Team, examines a 60 year-old aneroid barometer used to measure atmospheric pressure during the WWII era. Now obsolete, the old barometer serves as a reminder of how much technology has improved with today's sophisticated instrumentation, which can provide weather measurements by a push of a button. (Photo by Mary Flores)

throughout the day, called the wet bulb globe temperature (WGBT). This method of weather data collection is used to measure the amount of stress a human being can withstand while working in the elements, such as radiation of the sun, wind speed and humidity. When the WGBT temperatures soar, employees are

reminded to find shade, take a break and re-hydrate with fluids.

"At times it can get hectic because we may be on the opposite side of the installation in a remote location supporting a test, and yet we need to release weather balloons or radiosondes every two hours from various locations," said Gabe Langbauer,

meteorologist. "With today's sophisticated equipment, we can cover a lot of ground and testers can see the weather changing in real time. They are able to view archived data in a database system and, with a touch of a button they can view weather measurements for the day as well as extended forecasts."

According to Langbauer, a native of Ohio, weather measurements must be accurate, for the slightest change in conditions could affect the outcome of a test. "A change in wind speed or direction could cause projectiles to go in the wrong direction," he said. "If testers don't have accurate information, the outcome could be fatal, or even catastrophic, due to drastic changes in the weather."

For over 50 years, Yuma Proving Ground has been recording meteorological data. From M1 Abrams tanks to most everything the war fighter comes in contact with, weather plays a vital role in testing.

"There are times we experience delays during testing for a variety of reasons," explained Langbauer. "A test may begin and stop several times before the end of the day, but we must stand by no matter how long it takes to complete"

When he began working at YPG two years ago, he knew the desert was hot but didn't expect winds to be as strong and that temperatures would drop into the low 20s. "I expected the weather to be hot all the time," he said with a laugh.

Upon entering Langbauer's office, visitors see a 60 year-old aneroid barometer setting on the corner of

(See Weather on page 8)



Ammunition testers free of injuries/illnesses in 2010!

Despite the inherent dangers of assembling and handling live ammunition for military tests each day, there were no work-related injuries or illnesses in Yuma Proving Ground's Ammunition Preparation Branch in 2010. From left to right, front, Yuma Proving Ground commander Col. Thomas Payne, Trax Test Services project manager Thomas Foltz and Yuma Test Center commander Lt. Col. Stephen Milton honor branch workers on January 26th for their sterling safety record. Behind are honorees Thomas Becker, Joe Munoz, Jose Bonilla, Adrian Fernandez, Frank Garcia, Ignacio Hernandez, Mark Ishmael, Gary Mack, John J. Smith, Terrison Stewart, Robert Trujillo, Buddy Berry, Antonio Cabrales, Terry Fisher, Ivan Mendivil, Dean Morgan, Rodney Munger, Jose Ortiz, Vicente Zendejas. (Photo by Mark Schauer)

Viewpoints

Everyone loves good weather and fun. Since spring has nearly sprung, we asked members of the workforce, "What is your favorite spring break memory?"



Chris Solano, chief, Non-Appropriated Funds Civilian Personnel Office: My fondest spring break memory was a golfing trip I took with my father when I was 12 or 13. We travelled for eight days from northern Colorado, through New Mexico and Arizona to Las Vegas, then back to Colorado through Utah. We averaged 18 holes of golf a day, and played 27 holes once. We had a copy of Golf Digest with the top 100 public courses, and went to every one we could on our route. At Santa Ana Golf Course in New Mexico, we played in very high winds that blew the golf balls around after they landed on the green.



Kelly Brunswick, test vehicle operator, TRAX: My fondest spring break memory is going to Myrtle Beach, S.C. I was 18, and me and my buddies from school piled into a car and went. We had a lot of fun on the beach and going around trying to pick up girls. That's how it goes when you're 18.



Bobby Evaro, electronics technician, Optics: Palm Springs, 1983. It was a good spring break with a lot of college kids and dancing in the streets with minimum of trouble. I even saw the police take in a stalker. There were a lot of interesting sights... a young co-ed wearing a beach blanket like a poncho and nothing else. My wife and I were newly weds and went up to visit my family not knowing that spring break was in full swing. It was quite an interesting trip.



Robert Tillson, data collector, TRAX: When I was 20, I went to Mazatlan. I went with my folks - they subsidized it, but I spent as little time with them as possible. I hit the clubs and party places, went to the beach and boated every day. The seafood and carne asada were outstanding, and it was a non-stop party for two weeks. We had a very good time.

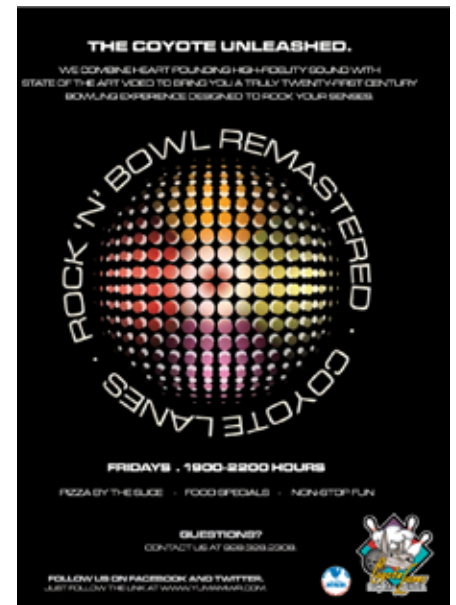


Spc. Eileen Sweeney, medic, Health Clinic: When I was in my 20s, I went to Hawaii with a friend. I had just broken up with my boyfriend, and she was in a rocky relationship with her boyfriend, so we just up and went. My friend got a two for one deal, so the entire package was about \$400. We took a hot plate to heat our own food, had a \$13 a day rental car that wouldn't go over 50 miles per hour and drove around, irritating all the drivers behind us. We saw all the sights, drank a lot of cocktails and went to a luau. It was a good experience.



Christine Slidell, data collector, TRAX: My best spring break memory is travelling to Cancun with my family. We went snorkeling and scuba diving, jet skiing, and took a boat tour. There is all kinds of sea life and reefs, and the shopping is great, too. We're not certified scuba divers, but you can take a two-hour lesson and go out for an hour with a certified diver.

Family, Morale, Welfare & Recreation Happenings



Benefits/compensation (Continued from page 2)

at the Department of Veterans Affairs website at <http://www.vba.va.gov/bln/21/Rates>.

- Continued commissary and exchange privileges
- Access to medical care
- Applying for Transitional Compensation

Victim advocates are available at each installation to provide you with an application packet for Transitional Compensation and to assist you with any questions that you may have. All approved applicants are paid monthly through DFAS.

Chiarelli (Continued from page 1)

during his day, and was thoroughly impressed with what he saw.

"What I've seen today is absolutely amazing," said Chiarelli. "I've gained a new appreciation for the importance of the work performed here. I want to thank the folks who are so dedicated to providing our Soldiers the finest, safest equipment."

Weather (Continued from page 6)

his desk. While now obsolete, the old barometer serves as a reminder of how atmospheric pressure was determined during the World War II era. Today, sophisticated instrumentation has replaced the antiquated piece of equipment.

"When I make a weather forecast, I rely on my knowledge and experience to make comparisons with data gathered at YPG and data from weather collection grids," said Langbauer. "In addition, I review and study national weather forecasts to see what's transpiring in the world and in our area, which aids in the process."

When Langbauer is not forecasting weather, he enjoys riding his bike, especially when temperatures are cooler. Both Langbauer and his wife, Elizabeth, enjoy residing in Yuma and are looking forward to the birth of their first child in July.