

The Outpost

Published for the employees and families of Yuma Proving Ground, Yuma Test Center, U.S. Army Garrison - Yuma, Cold Regions Test Center, and Tropic Regions Test Center

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

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A glimpse of YPG's local, abroad happenings



Once prominent, now forgotten (See more photos and story on page 4)



Testing systems down under a unique experience (See story on page 3)



High school engineering students 'wowed' (See story on page 6)

Top Army official visits Yuma Proving Ground

by Mark Schauer

Spring is report card time and YPG has earned excellent marks in the areas of energy and environmental stewardship.

So said Katherine Hammack, Assistant Secretary of the Army for Installations, Energy and Environment, during a day-long tour of YPG last week.

"I feel it is important to get out and see and talk with the people managing our installations," Hammack said of her visit. "I want to understand what is going on so policy and strategic decisions can be made from a position of knowledge, not from an ivory tower."

Hammack took an overflight of YPG's vast test ranges, visited a solar power-generating array, conducted a town hall meeting with YPG employees, visited the installation's housing facilities, and took an in-depth tour of the General Motors Desert Proving Ground located on land leased from YPG.

"I am really impressed with the enhanced use lease and the public-private relationship," Hammack



During her visit to YPG, Katherine Hammack was particularly impressed with the enhanced use lease partnership between YPG and the General Motors Desert Proving Ground. Here, GM site manager Frank West (left) discusses the facility with Hammack as YPG senior leaders look on. (Photo by Mark Schauer)

said. "The project is a pilot for the Army, and being an example for our other garrisons will only make their

jobs easier. What was done here in Yuma is a showcase to the rest of the (See Top Army official on page 5)

Increased solar energy in proving ground future

by Mary F. Flores

"Going green" are buzz words used excessively these days to advocate a cleaner, healthier future environment. But to Yuma Proving Ground and the entire Department of the Army, these words are becoming a reality.

The Army's vision is to appropriately manage our natural resources with a net zero strategy. This strategy is to manage our installations not only on a net zero energy basis, but net zero water and waste as well.

In the energy arena, Yuma Proving Ground embarked upon a modest solar energy initiative several years ago. "Of the more than 48 million energy kilowatts consumed by YPG each year, we are already capable of producing up to two percent of the demand from solar resources," said James Einwaechter, director of YPG's Department of Public Works. "Future plans for construction of commercial

solar plants on YPG via an enhanced use lease (EUL) initiative would allow YPG to reap further benefits from solar power."

Solar energy:

The idea behind solar power is to transform the energy contained within sunlight into heat. When light hits certain materials or objects, the energy becomes an electrical current, which can be harnessed into power.

YPG residents, employees and testers are fortunate to have the sun shine abundantly nearly every day of the year, delivering as much energy to the earth as all humanity uses in a single year. In just 20 days of sunshine, the sun can produce enough energy to equal the United States total reserves of coal, oil, and natural gas resources, thus making solar energy an extremely valuable commodity.

An added bonus of the sun's natural resource is that the powerful rays are clean, safe and inexhaustible. They do not give off carbon dioxide emissions,

the rays will never run out and the cost is free.

Solar facilities on YPG:

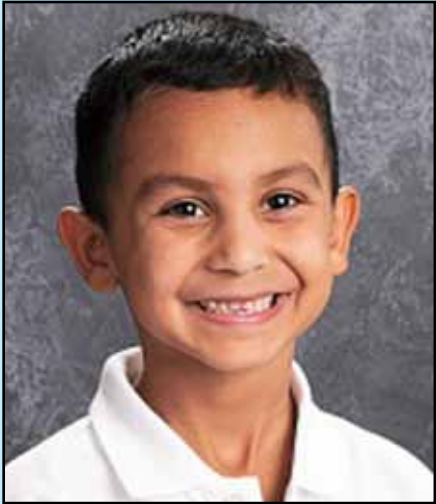
Twelve years ago, YPG installed its first solar photovoltaic facility on the Main Administrative Area (MAA) and as of January 2009, four additional facilities were installed throughout the installation. These five relatively small facilities have been actively collecting solar energy from the sun with panels, providing power to buildings on the MAA, the Yuma Test Center area, the Kofa Firing Range, and over 50 miles downrange to an offsite testing facility. These solar plants have saved YPG thousands of dollars, cutting energy costs significantly.

YPG's concept on future solar energy plant:

"A couple of years ago, a visiting general from the Army Test and Evaluation Command was enthused about making YPG a place to pursue a larger scale solar project," said Randy (See Solar energy on page 5)

News Notes

*Congratulations to
Price Elementary School
April Go-Getters from
Mrs. Irwin's
Kindergarten class*



Dorian Noriega



Madyson Gray

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Celebrating Month of the Military Child

Raising strong kids year-round

by Lt. Gen. Rick Lynch

The Army first observed the month of the military child in 1986, to honor the youngest members of the Army community. As we celebrated in April, 25 years later and in the 10th year of ongoing conflict, recognition of the sacrifices and strength of our military children is more vital than ever.

The life of military children has always had its challenges, foremost among them being frequent relocations. Every time families move, children have to make new friends, get used to new schools, and find new clubs and teams to join.

Now, in this time of persistent conflict, the challenges are compounded—they are more serious and affect more families. About 1.8 million children have a parent currently serving in the military. Since 2001, an estimated 900,000 children have had one or both parents deploy multiple times. Our children are dealing with long and repeated separations from their parents and dealing with the happy but disruptive time when their parents come home and the family has to regain normalcy. Sometimes they have to deal with the worst thing children can imagine, the death of a parent.

From the highest levels of leadership on down, the Army has committed to providing families with a quality of life that is commensurate with their service and sacrifice. For our children, that includes a commitment to ensure excellence in schools, child care and youth services—to ensure they have the support and care they need to develop into strong, resilient, well-rounded young adults.

Army Child, Youth and School Services (CYSS) is central to delivering on these promises. CYSS currently serves almost 300,000 children ages six weeks to 18 years in on-and-off-post programs around the world.

Through its Child Development Centers, School Age Care, and Middle School and Teen Centers, CYSS provides healthy and enriching environments that help children grow mentally, physically, socially and emotionally. For the school age children and teens in particular, the CYSS programs provide a whole world



Lt. Gen. Rick Lynch

of topics to explore, including fitness, health, arts, science and technology, leadership, citizenship, life skills and careers. In addition, CYSS runs a robust sports program, with more than 112,000 children participating in team and individual sports and sports clinics.

To meet the greater need for services, CYSS has made tremendous efforts to increase access and offerings, both on and off post. On installations in the states and overseas, CYSS has constructed 150 new child care and 24 new youth centers since 2007. They have also introduced innovative programs such as Neighborhood Activity Homes, which provide places for older kids outside of traditional facilities. Off post, CYSS has partnered with a number of local providers and national organizations to serve families who live in areas far from an installation or in high-impact areas where the need exceeds the capacity on the installation. CYSS extends 16 hours of free care per month to the families of deployed Soldiers, wounded warriors and fallen Soldiers, a total of more than 1.08 million hours in fiscal year 2010.

The focus on increasing access does two things for our families. When parents can take advantage of CYSS, it decreases stress on the family. Parents know that when they are deployed, working, or at medical appointments, their chil-

(See Military child on page 8)



In observance of Month of the Military Child in April, the Yuma Proving Ground Child Development Center held an arts and crafts outing for children and their parents. In this photo, Sophia Saez shows one of her creative projects, while her mother, Juanita Saez, (right) admires her work. (Photo by Mary Flores)

Testing systems ‘down under’ a unique, interesting and rewarding experience

by Mark Schauer

The three test centers under the jurisdiction of Yuma Proving Ground are responsible for evaluating virtually every piece of equipment in the military’s ground combat arsenal. But unlike Yuma Test Center and Cold Regions Test Center, Tropic Regions Test Center (TRTC) owns no land and counts the fewest employees of any test center.

What it lacks in land, however, it makes up in nimbleness and flexibility, two traits that TRTC is using to bring a test to Australia. The evaluation of an electronic positioning unit used in military vehicles is YPG’s first test in the ‘land down under’ in more than 15 years.

Though Australia incorporates dense tropical regions, the purpose of this testing is to verify the positioning unit functions properly south of the equator. TRTC generally conducts such tests in South American countries like as Chile or Brazil, locations that are less expensive to ship vehicles to than Australia. Certain tests, however, require either additional security or terrain features that Australia, an allied nation, can supply. As a highly developed nation, Australia also offers modern and expansive military test ranges that are similar to Yuma Proving Ground. The positioning unit has already been put through its paces by personnel at Yuma Test Center.

Yet bringing large test items to a foreign country presents logistical hurdles that must be overcome, including some that might not be intuitive to most people. Australia, for example, has strict rules concerning the condition of imported items that are meant to protect the island continent’s ecosystem and agricultural industry from contamination and invasive insects.

“When we bring vehicles in, they have to be very clean, without any dirt whatsoever,” explained Eusebio Lopez, TRTC’s senior engineer. “If the vehicle doesn’t meet specifications, it can be held in quarantine for an indeterminate amount of time.”



The evaluation of an electronic positioning unit used in military vehicles brought TRTC testers to Australia recently, their first test in the country in 15 years. Here, senior test engineer Eusebio Lopez stakes down a target prior to the test. (Loaned photos)

In the test, the vehicle was driven directly to an isolated test site once it arrived in country and cleared customs, and thus had to be in tip-top shape prior to departure. The YPG testers charged with driving the vehicle to the test site contended with differences in Australia’s road

rules, such as driving on the opposite side of the road than in the United States. The test course had already been plotted out and TRTC personnel believe the carefully planned test is going smoothly.

“TRTC works with YTC to as-

sure equipment is tested properly and ready to take the field with the warfighter,” said Ernie Hugh, TRTC director. “We do this seamlessly as far as the customer is concerned, though it takes a lot of coordination on our end.”

“

If the vehicle doesn’t meet specifications, it can be held in quarantine for an indeterminate amount of time.”



As a highly developed nation, Australia offers modern and expansive military test ranges that are similar to YPG. Unlike the proving ground, though, the Australia test site is home to kangaroos, such as those seen here.



The purpose of the Australian testing was to verify positioning unit functions south of the equator. Here, workers install a target to test the device.

Once prominent and now forgotten

Abandoned community lies near Yuma

by Chuck Wullenjohn

The bright Arizona sun relentlessly beats down on the ruins of adobe and stone buildings that once bustled with life, attracting visitors from around the nation to the healthful waters of a bountiful hot spring.

Agua Caliente, Spanish, for “hot water,” lies barely outside the Yuma County line, 12 miles north of isolated Sentinel on Interstate 8, forgotten by most but boasting a rich historical legacy that began hundreds of years ago when the natural spring was discovered by local Native Americans. Emitting hundreds of gallons of heated mineral-rich water each day, Agua Caliente’s springs were savored by Indians who found the waters soothing and healing. Later, when people of European stock came to call Arizona their own, they took notice and made a point of venturing there.

The area was undeveloped during these early years, with visitors soaking in informal pools of water and sleeping in tents or buckboard wagons. In 1897, a 22 room adobe hotel was built to cater to travelers, many of whom arrived by train from nearby Hyder, which was served by several daily eastbound and westbound trains. The outflow of water from the springs was harnessed around this time, with pipes leading to a large outdoor pool where people could easily enjoy the therapeutic liquid.

The resort remained a popular destination for many years and Agua Caliente was prominently listed on road maps and in visitor guides. It is said that President Franklin Roosevelt visited the resort, as did numerous Hollywood movie stars. Transcontinental passenger trains operated by the Southern Pacific Railroad stopped in Hyder each day, with the railroad’s nationally distributed



In 1897, a 22-room adobe hotel was built to cater to travelers. The empty structure still stands today in Agua Caliente. It is said that President Franklin Roosevelt visited the resort, as did famous movie stars. (Photo by Chuck Wullenjohn)

timetables noting that Agua Caliente was located nearby. Railroad passenger service continued in Hyder until the late 1950’s.

An upsurge of activity came with World War II, as the Army established two training camps in the forlorn desert surrounded by bare hills outside Hyder at which thousands of Soldiers prepared for duty overseas. Purposely situated in a rough environment to prepare Soldiers for the unforgiving conditions of combat, the camps featured no electricity, refrigeration or running water. Everyone lived in tents.

Camps Hyder and Horn were established in the fall of 1943. They were two of 15 desert camps built to harden and train troops in what became known as the California-

Arizona Maneuver Area. The desert training center was a simulated theater of operations that included portions of California, Arizona, and Nevada. A total of 13 infantry and seven armored divisions plus numerous smaller units trained in the harsh environment. Major units stationed at Camps Hyder and Horn were the 77th, 81st and 104th Infantry Divisions.

Troops assigned to Camps Hyder and Horn arrived mostly by train either in Hyder or nearby Sentinel, which consisted of a yellow clapboard railroad station, a few adobe and board structures, and a corral clustered around a few spindly trees and other desert growth. The first arrivals went into action to establish the camps shortly after their arrival in April 1943, clearing vegetation, blading roads, erecting tents, digging latrines, and much more.

Engineers laid out firing ranges and other training courses. They drilled a well near the Hyder railroad siding that had a flow rate exceeding 120,000 gallons of fresh water per day. A huge shower facility went up nearby. Eventually, over 13,000 men came to call Camps Hyder and Horn their temporary home, though summer temperatures rose far higher than most were accustomed to. The camps spread over several miles on

either side of town.

Large-scale maneuvers, foot marches, night patrols, and rugged individual training took place amid the out-of-the-way landscape. Soldiers found the standard Army ration of one quart of water per day far too little in the harsh conditions and quickly learned to take advantage of whatever shade they could find beneath any desert cliff or shrub.

One of the problems in the early months was the woeful scarcity of recreational activities. Urban destinations were miles away and many became discouraged during the long weeks of high heat they were forced to endure. An outdoor theater featuring first run movies went up to show films after dark and athletic programs featuring baseball and boxing were formed. Post exchanges stocked beer and soft drinks, along with limited amounts of ice to cool them. A newspaper went into operation in mid-1943 and officers constructed clubs out of adobe bricks for their own use. And the relaxing hot spring waters at Agua Caliente, used for hundreds of years, were visited and enjoyed by all.

As the war wound to a close, Camp Hyder and Camp Horn were abandoned. Little remains today,

(See Agua Caliente on page 8)



Established in 1943, troops assigned to Camps Hyder and Horn arrived mostly by train either in Hyder or nearby Sentinel. In this photo, a Soldier is getting a haircut from the unit’s barber as another Soldier awaits his turn. (Loaned photo)



Thousands of visitors seeking the healing waters of hot springs once passed over these stone steps leading to the hotel. (Photo by Chuck Wullenjohn)

Top official YPG (Continued from page 1)



In addition to seeking a public-private partnership for a large solar power facility, YPG has used the sun to generate electricity for over 15 years. Here, YPG commander Col. Thomas Payne (center) and public works chief of operations maintenance Larry Leake, discuss one of YPG's solar energy stations with Ms. Hammack. (Photos by Mark Schauer)

United States about what can be done with thoughtful leadership and good utilization and understanding of the resources available.”

Hammack also feels that YPG is in a prime location to further use solar and wind energy as part of the



Ms. Hammack also took time to recognize outstanding garrison employees. Here, Lt. Joe Lopez of the YPG Police Department receives a coin.

Army's NetZero energy conservation program. The proving ground has generated solar electricity for over 15 years, has several solar power arrays, and is actively seeking to implement an enhanced use lease with a private company for an additional solar power facility.

“When you live somewhere that averages over 320 sunny days a year, you should be leveraging opportunities in solar power,” said Col. Thomas Payne, YPG commander. “Whether it is technologies on the market today or under development by private industry, a sunny location to test and use them is needed. YPG should work hand-in-hand with those efforts.”

During the town hall meeting, YPG garrison employees asked questions regarding the potential of a new round of Base Realignment and Closures (BRAC) or a reduction in force. Hammack said that while there are currently no plans of this nature beyond continuing the civilian hiring freeze in effect across the Department of the Army, future economic realities could necessitate a workforce reduction that goes beyond attrition from retirements.

“My goal is for every distinguished visitor to leave here thinking, ‘Wow! I did not realize you had that many



Ms. Hammack spent the early afternoon in a town hall meeting with employees of the YPG garrison, as seen here. Topics of discussion included energy efficiency projects underway at YPG and the prospect of leaner defense budgets in coming years.

employees doing that many tests,” said Payne. “I want them to see the efficiencies we are chasing to constantly improve and do each subsequent test better. These efficiencies translate into cost savings, and our efforts in that area position us well for the lean years that are coming.”

Hammack departed YPG thoroughly impressed with what she saw.

“I think YPG is amazing,” Hammack said of the proving ground. “You have a lot of talented people here doing hard work. You're in a great location with a great many resources available.”



As part of the enhanced use lease between YPG and GM, the GM test track hosts testing of both military and civilian vehicles. Here, Steve Pratt of the GM Desert Proving Ground shows a Chevy Volt vehicle under test to Ms. Hammack and YPG garrison manager Rick Martin.

Solar energy (Continued from page 1)

English, YPG's sustainable range program manager. “Since then, numerous meetings have taken place with local government agencies and YPG senior leaders to find a specific location on the installation where 2,000 to 5,000 acres of land could be allotted for this initiative.”

Before the proposal to put a larger solar energy facility on YPG could begin, many factors needed to be considered, including a market study and analysis. This ensured the proving ground could accommodate this type of project and that it would be safe for the testing environment and natural habitat. YPG's Environmental Sciences Directorate played a major role in this decision.

Location of future solar energy plants:

After numerous meetings and discussions, a plot of land has been potentially identified in the Kofa Firing Range area. This land backs up to Bureau of Land Management and private land, and is clearly out of the way of test activity.

“We need to be cognizant about where we put a solar energy plant on YPG because some areas have sensitive equipment such as sensors,” English said. “For example, a solar

energy plant gives off electromagnetic emissions which can cause interruptions to sensor testing. If a solar energy plant was placed next to a drop zone, test objects could land on the solar facility by accident, causing havoc and disruption to tests.

“All these and many more factors had to be considered before a final decision was made. There is also a possibility the land allotted for this new solar plant may not be utilized in its entirety, however, it's enough land to build an adequate facility.”

Other benefits for YPG:

“There are other market conditions that make YPG an attractive location, because there is an exponentially increasing demand for affordable energy power on the west coast,” said Einwaechter. “Many developers are looking at the potential of power produced in the southwest, as in the state of Arizona, and being transmitted to California through long distance, high voltage distribution lines.”

The EUL initiative gives a private developer the opportunity to lease the designated YPG land and build its own large renewable energy solar plant. The energy produced could be connected and distributed through long distance transmission lines,

satisfying a demand over a wide geographic area in the southwest and west coast areas versus being provided directly and exclusively to YPG. YPG would benefit in the form of lease payments and “renewable energy credits,” as well as from increased availability of renewable energy it may purchase from the commercial grid.

“We are engaged with the Baltimore District of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to assist with the development and implementation of this initiative,” he said. “With the focus being on Net Zero energy, the objective for YPG is to produce as much renewable energy as we sell. The proving ground is in a great position to take advantage of the resources ‘Mother Nature’ provides in the desert southwest due to our geographical location.”

EUL agreement:

Once the proposed EUL is finalized, YPG will come into a real estate agreement with the private entity user. One of the great benefits about the EUL is YPG doesn't have to receive lease funds from the producer, but instead can receive “in kind” dollars. This means if the producer paid \$2.5 million a year for the land, then YPG

could receive \$2.5 million of services a year in “in kind dollars.”

“The great benefit is that YPG can choose how we want to spend our ‘in kind’ dollars,” said Angelica Bharat, chief, Master Planning and Real Property Division. “For example, one way might be to put the money back into repairing roofs or fixing roadways. Numerous other projects come to mind.”

“We're not alone in this undertaking, as one of our sister Installation Management Command installations, Fort Irwin, Calif., is using the same team we are, the Baltimore District Army Corps of Engineers, to help,” said Einwaechter. “There are many governmental organizations and private sector entities looking to stand up and provide this type of power source to the west coast.”

Presently, the EUL solar energy project is in its first phase. If the solar energy plant is constructed on the proposed site on YPG, all energy produced will be sold to the state of Arizona and California, giving YPG a 50 year benefit by receiving in kind dollars.

High school engineering students ‘wowed’ by amazing work at YPG

by Mark Schauer

If they were expecting wishy-washy nerds with slide rules and pocket protectors, 50 students from Yuma and San Luis High Schools were highly disappointed.

Recently, the group of future engineers toured Yuma Proving Ground, where they met six hip young engineers, learned how the world's largest cargo parachutes are rigged and packed, and saw a Bradley Fighting Vehicle fresh off a punishing road course.

The students from the two schools are enrolled in Engineering 102, a pilot class developed by the University of Arizona that aims to give high school kids with an interest in engineering a leg up before entering college. The students take calculus at the same time, an advanced mathematics class necessary for engineering success.

“If they’re going to stay on target and graduate in four to five years, students need to start preparing in high school so they have a math and physics background,” said Tanya Hodges, coordinator of academic programs at University of Arizona’s Yuma campus. “We want students to have a strong foundation and to see firsthand the relevancy of math and science.”

With expanding workloads and the demographic reality of aging workforces, high technology workplaces like Yuma Proving Ground are particularly keen to inspire the next generation of young adults toward careers in science.

“Even though engineering and science have a greater impact on our daily lives than ever before, a lot of kids aren’t introduced to it,” said Keith Allen, a test officer in the Air Delivery division at YPG. “I think you have to have a purpose and do something that provides value to your community and society. The testing we do here benefits our country, which, to me, is the most important goal, not making a lot of money.”

“High school kids are beginning to think of what kind of impact they want to make on the world,” added Ryan Tiaden, also of the Air Delivery division. “Engineers make a significant



Test Officer Keith Allen (center) explains the hundreds of tests ongoing throughout the year, as Ryan Tiaden, test officer, listens. (Photos by Mark Schauer)

impact in many different fields, which I don't think is always expressed.”

The test officers talked about general testing procedures for the vast array of equipment that comes to the proving ground before being fielded to troops. Engineering skills are utilized not only in evaluating a given item, but also in designing specialized test fixtures that are sometimes necessary to make a test of a unique item possible. Each test officer showed the students clips of video footage from actual tests at YPG, featuring parachutes with multi-ton cargo loads extracted from airplanes and including several instances where the experimental parachutes failed, sending their payloads hurtling downward into spectacular crashes.

“This was great,” said Nate Jurgens, who teaches physics and engineering at Yuma High. “We talk about the design process in class, but

the hands-on stuff is small things like a solar oven. Here, they can see the same principles applied to any engineering process, like a parachute that is going to save someone’s life.”

Though early preparation in high school is immensely helpful for success in engineering at the university level, YPG aviation test officer Ross Gwynn emphasized that it is never too late to choose to pursue engineering as a career.

“Working out here is by far the best decision I ever made,” Gwynn said. “I didn’t know what I wanted to be at first—I switched my major five times in college. In high school, I had no idea what engineering was, which is why this program is so important.”

Following a question and answer period, the students toured YPG’s large Air Delivery Complex, where cargo parachutes are maintained, prepared, and packed to support the

proving ground’s test drop schedule. Following this, the students got an up close look at one of the Bradley Fighting Vehicles undergoing testing at YPG, as well as an Apache attack helicopter, which YPG integrates weapons into.

“It’s nice to show the kids what we’re doing,” said Don Davis, a test officer in the Ground Combat branch. “They have an interest in engineering, and hopefully we sparked more interest. In five years when they start looking for a job, I hope they keep Yuma Proving Ground in mind.”

“I learned a lot today,” said Jesus Garcia, a senior at Yuma High who plans to pursue a degree in aeronautical engineering. “There is a lot of variety in engineering, and it’s all related. It is a long road to NASA, so maybe I’ll work here.”



Ross Gwynn, test officer for the Aviation Systems Division, welcomes students from Yuma and San Luis High Schools to the Air Delivery Complex. These students are enrolled in Engineering 102, a pilot class developed by the University of Arizona that aims to encourage high school kids with an interest in engineering before entering college. The students were given the opportunity to tour each phase of the complex in addition to taking a close look at a Bradley Fighting Vehicle undergoing testing at YPG, as well as an Apache attack helicopter.

Viewpoints

Since May is Month of the military spouse, we asked spouses on the installation, what are some of the challenges you face?



Martha Jones: One of the challenges is knowing that after you get settled in one duty station, you will have to move in a couple of years. Leaving friends behind is difficult. Knowing that your life is constantly changing makes it difficult, even for the children. We have three children, ages, six, four and two years- old and are used to the changes. However, their is a benefit, we get to travel to different locations, which is very cool.



Calah Granger: Personally, there aren't really many challenges, but I would have to say that whenever my husband has to travel or leave for training it's kind of disruptive to the family, but I'm definitely used to it. We have three young boys and I feel we actually have it pretty nice here because this is not a deployable installation and we like it here!



Kellie Pacella: I would say adjusting to new duty stations is a challenge, because by the time you get settled in one area, it's time to prepare for relocation and you have to be mentally prepared for the move. We have three children and it's a big challenge for them to adjust to new schools and make new friends but YPG is great and we love it here. It's a great community!



Elaine Hatton, Price School librarian: Mainly for me, it's the location and size of the children's school. I feel we often get left out or forgotten because we are in a remote location and a long distance from town. It would be difficult for the children to attend school in town because of the distance and high gas prices. It would be a hardship on us.



Ana Estrada: For me, it's all the moving, to include the packing and unpacking. When my husband was deployed to Iraq for nine months, it was difficult being separated from him. While he was gone, I thought about all the dangers he might face. We have been married for five years and we have moved a couple of times during these years. We have six children combined, so things can be very challenging for all of us.



Staff Sgt. Trasey Roby: Childcare is the biggest challenge because both of us work different schedules and who will pick up our child can be a challenge. Another challenge we face is coordinating work schedules when one of us is on travel. It can be difficult because one of us may be gone for a month at a time which makes it difficult to find quality family time. We have been fortunate that for the past four years we have been stationed here, and we like it because this is not a deployable duty station.

Another successful Safety Awareness Week for the proving ground



The Yuma Proving Ground Safety Office held another successful safety awareness week during April. Over 150 classes were available to the workforce with a wide variety of topics to include elder abuse, managing employees with bad attitudes, office safety, cholesterol and concerns, safety and YPG history, bloodborne pathogens and fire warden training, to name a few. Instructors were all subject matter experts. Even with the possibility of a federal shutdown, the event brought out 40 vendors. "We had successful participation even though the test mission continued," said Tony Brockington, director of the Safety Office. "We still had over 90 percent of our employees in attendance." In the top photo, attendees stroll through the gym to view displays of safety and protection products. In the bottom photo, Dr. Mitch Freeman (right), demonstrates what a clogged artery looks like. Freeman also talked about the importance of adding exercise to everyone's daily schedules. (Photos by Mark Schauer)

Come out and enjoy a "Free" concert, an evening of fun and relaxation
The 36th Army Band
 will perform patriotic marches, popular themes from movies, jazz, medleys and much more!

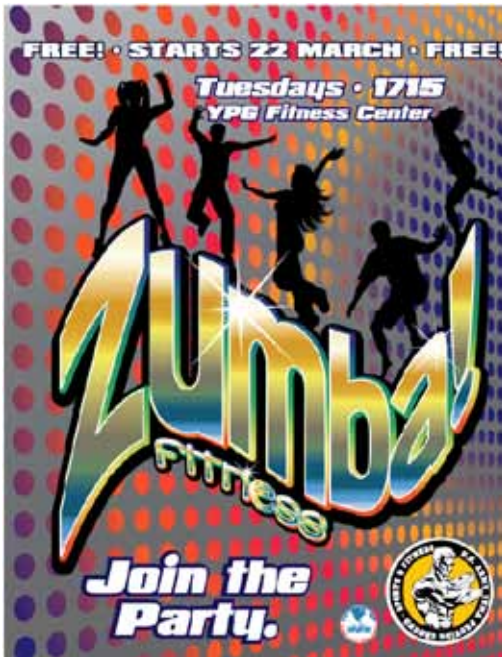


Place: Historic Yuma Theatre
Time: 7:00 p.m.
Date: Wednesday, 25 May 2011

Tickets are "free" but seats are limited. Limit four tickets per person

YPG employees can obtain tickets at the Public Affairs Office, Bldg. 2100, Rm 39 or call 328-6533. The public can obtain tickets at the Yuma Art Center, 254 Main Street, and (928-373-5202). Tickets will be available at the Yuma Art Center beginning Wednesday, May 11 and at YPG on Thursday, May 12.

Family, Morale, Welfare and Recreation Happenings



Free Zumba classes!

Are you ready to party yourself into shape? That's exactly what the Zumba program is all about. It's an exhilarating, effective, easy-to-follow, Latin-inspired, calorie-burning dance fitness-party that's moving millions of people toward joy and health.



Zumba Fitness is the only Latin-inspired dance-fitness program that blends red-hot international music, created by Grammy Award-winning producers, and contagious steps to form a "fitness-party" that is downright addictive.

Since its inception in 2001, Zumba Fitness has grown to become the world's largest - and most successful - dance-fitness program with more than 10 million people of all shapes, sizes and ages taking weekly Zumba classes in over 90,000 locations across more than 120 countries.

Join the fitness and the fun every Monday at 9 am and every Tuesday a 5:15 pm at the YPG Fitness Center. Classes are FREE!

Free "Kahuna Palooza" Summer pool party"

The pool party series will kick off Sat., May 21 with the Splish Splash Luau Bash. Back by popular demand, entertainers called "Unifier" will perform stilt walking and fire dancing! There will also be contests, games and fun for the whole family. Second in the series will be the south of the border pool party on Sat., June 18. Kids won't want to miss the piñatas, belly flop contests, and prizes. The series will wrap up August 6 with the Back to School Flip Flop Hop. Rock n' roll and swim to this 1950s themed event! Each of the parties will begin at 6 p.m. at the YPG Kahuna Lagoon Swimming Pool.



Military child (Continued from page 2)

dren are in a safe place. Also, these programs provide our children with much needed support. They are in a caring environment with adults and peers who understand what they are experiencing.

In addition to providing quality out-of-school programs, CYSS is also focusing on supporting military children in school. Military children attend on average of nine different schools before they graduate high school. The transition between schools can be rough when there are incompatible requirements to enroll, to join extracurricular activities or to graduate.

It can be tough for students to settle in, when school personnel do not understand the issues—the stress of being the new kid yet again, the fear of separation, the disappointment that mom or dad is missing another game or recital.

Schools liaison officers are located at every garrison to help families with these and other school-related issues.

In a new two-year pilot program, school liaison officers (SLO) at seven garrisons will be joined by military student transition consultants. The consultants will be located in school district offices and work closely with the SLO to build understanding between school districts, garrisons and families about the needs of military students.

I can point to any number of other ways Army CYSS is doing a phenomenal job of supporting our children. In addition to daily child care and afterschool care which meet the highest national standards, CYSS provides special events and camps, both on post and far from any post. There's Tutor.com, where students can get online tutoring anytime and anywhere. There are the military family life consultants, who provide counseling to kids in school, and so much more.

CYSS strives to provide a comprehensive range of services for families to help grow strong and resilient children.

Month of the Military Child is an important observance, and a lot of fun. Installations worldwide held hundreds of fairs, parades, carnivals and other events throughout the month.

The Army does not confine its commitment to children to one month a year—we owe our children more than that. They do not sign up for the challenges military life brings, and yet they are right in there with us, making sacrifices everyday and showing a lot of bravery. It's our job to do the best by them that we can, providing the care, support and opportunities they need to thrive in the face of challenges. Our children are our future: when they are strong, we are strong.

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

Agua Caliente (Continued from Page 4)

as active farming in the area has reclaimed the land. The 1897 hotel in Agua Caliente went out of business in the 1950s after the hot spring waters bubbling to the surface diminished and reappeared only intermittently. Some say it resulted from dozens of wells drilled by farmers to irrigate agricultural fields that disturbed the underground plumbing system, while others claim it was the ill use of dynamite blasting.

Agua Caliente's whitewashed hotel remains today, baking in the sun. A caretaker lives in back and the windows have been carefully closed, as if someday to reopen. Nearby guest quarters constructed from stone and adobe have crumbled into ruins, though some walls and foundations remain. An active farm directly across the road hosts various animals and expansive fields, as it has for many years.

Little more than one-half mile away on a raised mound along the side of the main road is the old town's cemetery. A brief stroll among the 46 gravesites, all of which are ringed with desert stones, causes somber visitors to think of the lives of the brave people who once lived in this remote portion of Arizona, as well as contemplate their own personal mortality.

Here are the graves of infants who lived only months, as well as fathers and mothers who passed away between 1900 and the mid-1980's. Most of the individual crosses and markers have vanished or deteriorated over the years, such that most graves are marked only by a sun-baked ring of stones. One granite marker from 1974 reads, "Came to Hyder in '65, but didn't leave alive." Another grave is the final resting place of a miner named "Placer Mike" who was killed at Yuma County's King of Arizona mine.

Agua Caliente today is haunted by desert winds that blow through the area and the many miles of deserted terrain around it. Hyder is a community hanging on for existence, on the verge of becoming a ghost town itself.

But it is well to remember the past – of those who came before and those who helped win the biggest war in human history and save the world from fascist rule. If you ever visit the ruins of Agua Caliente or any other ghost town, treat it reverently. The people who once walked there were just like you and me. What you see is what their dreams have become.