

THE OUTPOST

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

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Large body of foreign troops train at Yuma Proving Ground

By Mark Schauer

The citizens of Yuma are accustomed to extended winter visits from Canadian citizens, and YPG is quickly becoming an annual destination for Canadian Soldiers.

The armed forces of the United States' northern neighbor have supported military operations in Afghanistan for over ten years, as the Royal Canadian Regiment's Third Battalion has experienced firsthand.

"With the exception of a few new Soldiers, almost all of the battalion has done multiple tours in Afghanistan," said Maj. David Hill, commander of the battalion's O company. "I've been there twice."

The battalion is no stranger to YPG, either. The unit has participated in Marine Corps Weapons and Tactics Instructor (WTI) courses supported by the proving ground in

previous years.

"Last year one of the companies was slated to do some training at Twentynine Palms that got turned off due

to operational issues," said Hill. "In lieu of that, WTI had an opening for a sub-unit, so we took it. A portion of the battalion came last year

and had a fantastic training opportunity, so we're doing it again."

Hill's company spent just over a month living in

YPG's frequently utilized Forward Operating Base, encountering spring desert weather dramatically warmer than that of their native

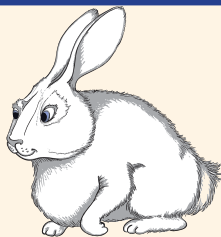
Ontario. In addition to typical drills and weapons proficiency exercises on YPG's training ranges, the troops served as the ground combat element in several training exercises for Marine Corps aviators. The most dramatic example was the aerial assault of a platoon against one of YPG's mock Middle Eastern Villages in which about 30 Canadian troops were flown in by Huey and Cobra helicopters, slid down ropes from the hovering aircraft, and quickly hunted down a mock 'high-value' target and her coterie of insurgent guards. The target was captured and the wounded whisked away in the helicopters within 30 minutes of



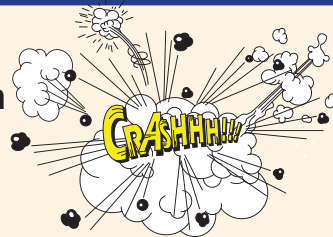
Realistic training is critical for Soldiers in any Army, and YPG's mock Middle Eastern villages are a prime site. Here, a Canadian Soldier fast ropes off of a UH-1 helicopter as part of a simulated assault during their month-long stay at YPG. PHOTO BY MARK SCHAUER

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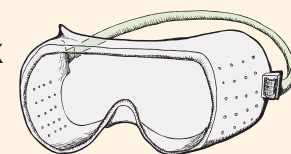
Computer tech's
passion for
helping kids
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Test driver
also a demolition
derby star?
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Command Sgt. Maj. Daniels accepts new responsibility

By Spc. Ro Krueger, 3rd Sustainment Brigade Public Affairs

The Soldiers assigned to the 3rd Sustainment Brigade, Third Infantry Division officially welcomed Command Sgt. Maj. Forbes Daniels during a change of responsibility ceremony April 20 at Fort Stewart, Ga.

“Every Soldier has benefited from former Command Sgt. Maj. Clifton Johnson’s outstanding leadership, coaching, teaching and mentoring,” said Col. Ron Novack, commander of the brigade. Johnson has been with the division for more than 10 years. “I look back on my time with lots of pride.” said Johnson. “I truly believe there is nothing the 3rd Sustainment Brigade can’t do.”

He added that he is confident that the brigade will be in good hands

with new Command Sgt. Maj. Daniels, formerly Command Sergeant Major at Yuma Proving Ground, Yuma, Ariz.

“I am every bit confident that he will take this brigade to the next level,” said Johnson. “He is a Soldier’s Soldier. He understands what it means to be a noncommissioned officer.”

Daniels, a native of Guyana, South America, is no stranger to the Third Infantry Division. He formerly served at Hunter Army Airfield as a first sergeant with the 603rd Aviation Support Battalion, which is a component of the division.

“I am humbled and grateful to be the 3rd Sustainment Brigade Command Sergeant Major,” said Daniels. “It is great to be back as part of the Third Infantry Division again.”



Command Sgt. Maj. Clifton Johnson, Col. Ron Novack and Command Sgt. Maj. Forbes Daniels stand before the 3rd Sustainment Brigade April 20 at the change of responsibility ceremony held at Fort Stewart, Ga. Daniels will take over as senior enlisted advisor of the brigade, a component of the Third Infantry Division. U.S. ARMY PHOTO



Yuma veteran's center opens for business

By Chuck Wullenjohn

The newly constructed Yuma Veterans Center opened its doors last week to provide a wide variety of counseling services to area military veterans. Formerly located near MCAS Yuma, the new center sits next to Ninja Sushi at 1450 16th St.

Delphine Avans-Hamilton, who

once worked at YPG and served in the Marine Corps, is office manager at the facility that offers readjustment counseling services to veterans of military duty, as well as marriage counseling, family counseling, resume assistance and job search services, and much more.

“When I was hired in 2010, we

see **CENTER** page 3

Bobby Fields, readjustment counseling technician, explains the operation of a mobile veterans center van based in Prescott to Col. Reed Young and his wife, Norma. The mobile center provides counseling support in areas of the state without a permanent center.

PHOTO BY CHUCK WULLENJOHN

CENTER

FROM PAGE 2

operated out of a small office," said Hamilton. "We had no computers and it was difficult. We later moved to a temporary building near MCAS Yuma for eight months, then came here. Our permanent home is one hundred times better."

She feels the services offered at the center greatly add to the community

and she considers working there her "dream job."

"We help veterans in every way possible, about anything, and I can guarantee people will not leave without an answer."

People are frequently confused about eligibility requirements to make use of clinic services, said Hamilton. Some think a person must be a 20 year retiree to visit the clinic, which is incorrect. "Anyone who has

served in the military is a veteran, which qualifies them to visit us," she explained"

Col. Reed Young, commander, visited the day of the ceremony along with a number of city officials. "It's wonderful to see this spanking new facility go up to make sure veterans obtain the services they deserve, require and have earned," he said. "Counseling of various kinds are a necessity to many folks, especially

those who have witnessed the horrors of combat. Counselors here are highly trained and can definitely help."

The YPG workforce consists of a high number of veterans, between 30 and 40 percent, and the Yuma community consists of thousands more. For more information, stop by the Veterans Center, open Monday through Friday each week, or call 271-8700.

YPG test driver a demolition derby star

A 'thrill' when crashing into other cars before immense crowds

By Mark Schauer

Sam Deckard is a superb driver. And not just a superb test vehicle operator, even though he has spent the last two years putting Mine Resistant Ambush Protected (MRAP) vehicles through their paces. For most, the extreme driving in just a single day of a typical YPG vehicle durability test would more than satisfy the desire for thrills behind the wheel.

But Deckard feels his job is just another day at the office. His real fun is off-duty -- when crashing into other cars before immense crowds.

For over 20 years, he has been a regular competitor in demolition derbies across Arizona and California. Whether the derby has been small or large, one thing has been consistent: Deckard has excelled.

He is quick to point out that his job and hobby are not the same.

"My on-the-job world is totally different," said Deckard. "They won't let me run into stuff here. My hobby and job are two separate things."

His latest demolition derby triumph was at the Yuma County Fair on April 4th, where he maneuvered and crashed his recently acquired 1971 Oldsmobile station wagon to victory against 13 other competitors. His

15th career win in the sport was accomplished in front of 9,000 cheering spectators overflowing from the fairgrounds' grandstands.

"There is no secret," Deckard said of his long string of successes. "I just take the time on little things like wiring, which is what takes most people out. I do everything the rules allow me to do, which makes a big difference."

He has learned the importance of attention to detail the hard way. During his first derby, a crash separated his car's gas tank from the body, resulting in a fourth place finish, and he missed a chance to win his second derby when he ran out of gas. Several years later, a catastrophic failure that occurred while loading his car onto a trailer kept him out of the competition entirely. These days, with assistance from sponsors, Deckard performs preventative maintenance like thoroughly inspecting his car's transmission every three derbies and changing out essential parts, like universal joints, whether they look ready to fail or not.



Sam Deckard, chillin' before he psyches himself for competition in the demolition derby at the Yuma County Fair. Deckard says his hobby and his job are not the same: "At work they don't let me run into stuff."

PHOTO BY MARK SCHAUER

see **DRIVER** page 5

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Chaplain's Corner

True Religion

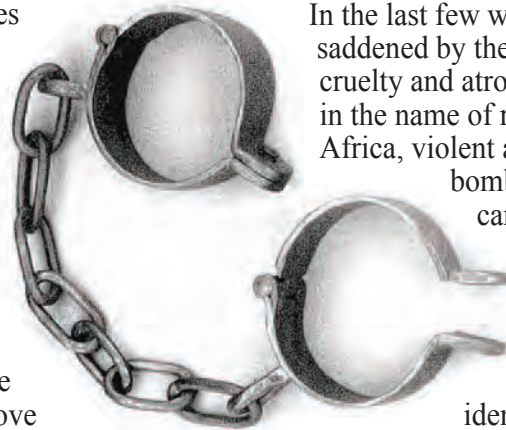
By Chaplain Loren (Maj.) Hutsell

"The slave auctioneer's bell and the church-going bell chime in with each other, and the bitter cries of the heart-broken slave are drowned in the religious shouts of his pious master;" wrote abolitionist Frederick Douglass (1818-1895) about the relationship between slavery and slaveholding religion.

Religion was fraudulently used in the name of God to oppress, separate families, enslave, dehumanize, and kill African Americans. Fellow abolitionist and woman's suffrage leader Sojourner Truth (1797-1883) also spoke against this worst kind of evil by declaring, "religion without humanity is poor human stuff." In our nation's history, slavery was justified and women were denied

many basic rights in the name of religion.

Sadly, religious beliefs are sometimes the cause of oppression, cruel inhumanity, and blatant disregard for human life. The scriptures remind us, however, that such religion is false. True religion is based upon love and service toward others. The apostle Paul defined true religion as the action of love: Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. It does not dishonor



others, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres (I Cor. 13:4-7).

In the last few weeks, I have been saddened by the heartlessness, cruelty and atrocities committed in the name of religion. In Africa, violent attacks and

bombings have been carried out against

innocent civilians. In Asia, people have been stopped,

identified and killed for their religious beliefs.

And in our own nation, a misguided church celebrated the deaths of

five people killed by tornados in Oklahoma. All of this is false religion.

As a nation, we are fortunate for God-fearing leaders like Frederick Douglas and Sojourner Truth who bravely confronted the oppressors of their day. They challenged false belief systems by speaking the truth. They paved a road for the rest of us to follow.

Sojourner Truth's testimony provides us inspiration and purpose in fighting against oppression: "I am above 80 years old; it is about time for me to be going. I have been 40 years a slave and 40 years free, and would be here 40 years more to have equal rights for all. I suppose I am kept here because something remains for me to do, I suppose I am yet to help break the chain."

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Baby Blues : What are they?

Submitted by Paul J. Kilanski, Family Advocacy Program Specialist

What are "Baby Blues?" After your baby is born, you may have mood changes for a while. These feelings are normal. Most women have them. They are sometimes called the "baby blues." Baby blues usually go away after a few days. They shouldn't last longer than one or two weeks.

So how do you know if you have the blues? You might feel very happy then feel very sad, feel hopeless and worry a lot, feel lonely and cry easily, get angry easily, have trouble sleeping. Baby blues usually go away by themselves but if you have very strong feelings, or the feelings last more than two weeks, you may have depression. This should be treated by a doctor.

Up to 80 percentage of new moms have some sad feelings. Baby blues can happen after the first baby, or any baby after that. Experts don't know why some women feel this way while others don't. Like morning sickness, baby blues are hard to explain.

So, what can you do? You're getting used to lots of changes. Here are some things you can do for yourself: Take naps.

1. Try to rest or sleep when your baby falls asleep.
2. Only do chores that have to be done. Learn to leave the rest.
3. Find time for yourself each day. Even a 15 minute break can help.
4. Accept your feelings. Before the baby is born, buy something new to wear when you come home. Remind yourself that you're special too.
5. Take a walk with the baby every day. Walking reduces stress and it's good for the baby.

6. Ask friends and family to call before they visit. Put a "Please don't disturb" sign on the door when you're sleeping.

7. Find other new moms to talk to. Talking to others with new babies can be a big help.

8. Stay in touch with friends. They can cheer you up and offer support.

Partners can help too! Being a parent is easier if both mom and dad take part. Your partner can:

1. Learn to take care of the baby. Partners can help when the baby cries, change diapers, bathe the baby and support you while you learn to breastfeed.

2. Talk about feelings. Talking to each other can make changes and rough times easier.

3. Take turns taking breaks. Both or you need a little time away from the baby.

4. Make decisions together. Two heads are better than one. And you'll feel less worried about making "mistakes."

Let others help you, especially the first few weeks. Friends and family can:

1. Cook meals.
2. Do the laundry.
3. Clean house.
4. Shop for groceries.
5. Take care of other children.

You might not want to ask. But often people want to help. Accepting help lets you have more energy to take care of yourself and the baby.

It's not clear what causes the blues, but a lot is going on. Hormone levels drop which can affect your moods. Childbirth and taking care of a new baby are hard work. Chores such as cooking and laundry still have to be done. You might expect yourself to feel good and feel guilty

if you don't.

If these feelings of the blues are very strong or last a long time they might have become depression. Depression is normal. It's a serious illness. It needs to be treated right away. Medicine, a counselor or both can help. If you have depression you might lose interest in the baby or in the things you used to enjoy. You might feel very, very tired, eat too much or too little, forget things, get confused or not be able to make decisions. You may feel worthless or guilty and maybe even feel like hurting yourself or others. Depression doesn't go away by itself. It can keep you from taking care of yourself and your baby. Call your doctor if you think you might have depression.

DRIVER

FROM PAGE 3

Despite the sport's inherent danger Deckard has never been injured, which he also credits to careful preparations.

"I've never been hurt, but I know people who have," he said. "I take a lot of precautions, like putting bars in to protect the driver. I use synthetic oil since the flashpoint is quite a bit higher than regular oil, so I've never had a fire."

Deckard says he participates in derbies for fun and doesn't mind losses. He favors full-size General Motors cars from the mid-1970s, which he says have favorable suspension systems for demolition derbies.

"Demolition derbies are much more fun than racing, as far as I'm concerned," he said. "The hassles and headaches are far fewer." He plans to be back at the Yuma County Fair in 2013.

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TSP Change - Roth contributions

More tax flexibility in the TSP

The Thrift Savings Plan (TSP) will soon begin offering all active federal employees and members of the uniformed services the option to designate some or all of their contributions as Roth contributions. The TSP Roth feature will give participants flexibility in the tax treatment of their contributions now and in the future.

How does Roth TSP compare to Traditional TSP?

Roth contributions are taken out of your paycheck after your income is taxed. When you withdraw funds from your Roth balance, you will receive your Roth contributions taxfree since you have already paid taxes on the contributions. You also

won't pay taxes on any earnings, as long as you're at least age 59? (or disabled) and your withdrawal is made at least 5 years after the beginning of the year in which you made your first Roth contribution. Traditional (pre-tax) contributions, which lower your current taxable income, give you a tax break today. They grow in your account tax-deferred, but when you withdraw your money, you pay taxes on both the contributions and their earnings.

This information is intended for a federal civilian employees serviced by the Yuma CPAC.

Roth TSP implementation date is May 7, 2012. This marks a major change in the TSP program, information about which is included in this email; however, for further information, please visit www.tsp.gov.

Can Roth benefit you?

Everyone's situation is different. Whether you would be better off making traditional or Roth

contributions depends on your income tax rate now and in the future. For example, you might benefit from making Roth TSP contributions if:

- You are in a low tax bracket now, but think your tax rate may be higher in retirement. With Roth, your contributions are taxed at your current lower rate, and you avoid paying taxes at the expected higher rate in the future.
- You are not in a low tax bracket now, but anticipate that your marginal federal tax rate will increase in the coming years.
- You are a uniformed services member making contributions from tax-exempt pay earned in a combat zone. If you elect Roth contributions, you will not pay taxes on either your Roth contributions or their earnings (as long as you satisfy the age and 5-year holding requirements mentioned earlier).*
- You want tax diversification and see an advantage in making after-tax contributions so that you can have

tax-free withdrawals in retirement.

- You are age 50 or older and deployed to a combat zone while making catch-up contributions. You will be able to continue these contributions if they are Roth contributions. (You can't make catch-up contributions to your traditional TSP balance from tax-exempt pay.)

How does Roth TSP work?

- Money already in your account when you begin making Roth contributions will remain part of your traditional balance. You will not be able to convert it to Roth.
- The combined total of your Roth and tax-deferred traditional contributions in 2012 cannot exceed the elective deferral limit of \$17,000, or the catch-up contribution limit of \$5,500.
- Agency contributions will always be part of your traditional (non-Roth) balance.
- Any contribution allocation or interfund transfer will apply to the

see **TSP** page 7

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- Gift cards will be issued, in conjunction with cash, for refunds of \$25 or more when a receipt is not presented
- Clarification of dot-scan barcode requirements and PIN requirements for unique numbering, that photocopies and counterfeit coupons are not accepted, and that coupons must be printed in English

If you have questions about the policy, please see your Commissary Store Director, or visit our website at www.commissaries.com, where the policy and FAQs are posted.

TSP

FROM PAGE 6

investment of both your Roth and traditional contributions or balances.

- You will be able to transfer Roth 401(k), Roth 403(b), and Roth 457(b) (but not Roth IRA) money into the Roth balance in your TSP account. Pre-tax transfers will continue to be placed in your traditional balance.

Electing Roth contributions is not an all-or-nothing decision. You can contribute to both your Roth and traditional balances. Roth gives you the opportunity to diversify the

tax treatment of the money in your account.

* Tax-exempt contributions that go into your traditional and Roth balances are subject to the Internal Revenue Code 415(c) limit (\$50,000 in 2012). However, only tax-exempt contributions that go into your Roth balance are subject to the elective deferral limit (\$17,000 in 2012).

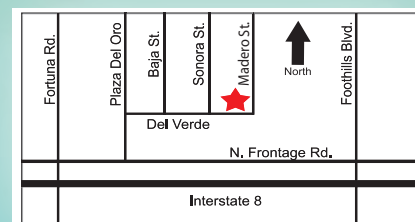
Roth TSP is similar to a Roth 401(k), not a Roth IRA. There are no income limits for Roth TSP contributions.



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Helping kids a passion for computer expert

By Chuck Wullenjohn

Working on sophisticated, highly technical computer systems that few others understand is one of Dan Daley's passions, one that has seen him advance through the YPG ranks.

But another passion exists, one that has seen him educate and train dozens of local children enrolled in the 4H program in the field of rabbit breeding. Daley has enthusiastically worked with groups of kids for many years and recently took part in the Yuma County Fair, where he supervised a group of seven young 4Hers exhibiting their rabbits. A total of nearly 200 rabbits were exhibited at the fair.

As part of the 4H program, young owners learn and do many things with their rabbits. Besides learning basic showmanship and the details about raising them, each child is expected to become knowledgeable about rabbits. Fair judges consider both aspects as they examine the animals and award ribbons.

"I enjoy seeing kids excel," said Daley as he stood amid dozens of metal rabbit cages at the fair. "I sometimes see kids who are shy and reserved develop into polite, mature college-going men and women. It's nice to realize I might have had a little bit to do with it."

2012's fair lasted six days, Tuesday through Sunday, and Daley attended after work the first two days, then took a day of annual leave before the three day weekend. In total, he spent dozens of volunteer hours at the fair - about the equivalent of a typical work week.

The popularity of raising rabbits has gone up and down over the years, with Daley leading groups as large as 23 to as small as six or seven.

One of the things that impresses him about Yuma is that farmers in the community support the 4H animal growers "the best he has seen." Rabbits that are purchased by the kids for 25 dollars often are sold for auction prices of 125 and sometimes

as much as 800 dollars.

"All the money goes to the kids," said Daley with a smile. "My pay is the satisfaction I've gathered along the way."

At YPG, Daley works for TRAX International with the Data Center

Server team in the North End of the Range Operations Center, more often known simply as the "ROC." He has worked at YPG for 13 years after retiring from a 20-year career with the Navy Seabees.



Dan Daley explains to two young girls enrolled in the Yuma County 4H program, what judges will be looking for during the showmanship of their rabbits at the Yuma County Fair. As part of the program, young owners learn a great deal about their rabbits. (Photo by Mark Schauer)

FOREIGN

FROM PAGE 1

arrival. The company capped its stay at YPG with a four-day long-range desert patrol before departing in late April.

YPG's strikingly realistic mock villages and compounds combined with the similarity of the installation's terrain to that of Southeast Asia makes it an ideal and more-readily available supplement to major training installations such as Fort Irwin's National Training Center or the Marine Corps Air Ground Combat Center at Twentynine Palms, Ca. Staging the training exercise at Yuma Proving Ground provided the additional benefit of a venue unfamiliar to exercise participants, which added to its realism.

"YPG's facilities are outstanding, which is a big reason why we're here," said Hill. "Deploying here in and of itself is a test of our operational readiness, and the ability



The novelty of a Canadian regiment training at YPG drew a wide range of local and regional media to cover its exercises and interview members of the unit. Here, Master Cpl. Tyler Stefanich talks to the media following the successful conclusion of an aerial assault on one of YPG's mock villages.

PHOTO BY CHUCK WULLENJOHN

to use the ranges here is fantastic."

"This is the most realistic and demanding training I've done in my professional career," added Master Cpl. Tyler Stefanich, a reservist with 11 years of experience. "The terrain and weather is so different from what we have in Canada. This is basically the same as what we see overseas."



(Left) Having fast-roped from of hovering helicopters to capture a suspected terrorist, the Canadian troops encountered paintball fire from opposing forces, forcing them to take cover. (Center Right) Lacking the element of surprise from their aerial insertion into the training village, Canadian troops were forced to enter the village tactically and fight resisters. Here, a Soldier gets ready to move in. (Bottom Right) The coordinated insertion of troops into the village completely surrounded it with troops: helicopters either landed members of the assault team on the periphery of the village, as seen here, or directly into its center with troops sliding down ropes off hovering helicopters.

PHOTOS BY MARK SCHAUER



Yuma Proving Ground showcases its mission

The Yuma Proving Ground workforce has been participating in the annual Yuma County Fair for many years in activities such as the one in the story above. In addition, their artistic talents have been on display and many have competed in a number of categories throughout the fair's history. This year, however, Yuma Proving Ground went one step further and showcased the mission of the proving ground as the Public Affairs Office staff displayed an array of photographs, antique military helmets and informational brochures. In addition, the Directorate of Air Combat Systems, displayed the Silver Fox, unmanned aerial system, which was a big attraction. The YPG booth attracted thousands of visitors during the week-long event. Many tried on the military helmets and were enthused about the Meals Ready to Eat that were on display as well. Visitors also inquired about employment at the proving ground and were happy to see YPG showcase the mission and its professional workforce.

PHOTO BY MARK SCHAUER

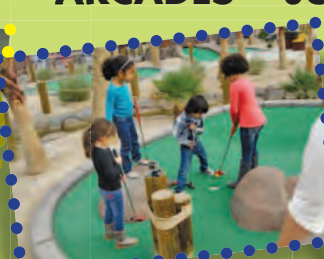


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Lifting should be done with the legs.

If we can't avoid lifting, it is important to use dollies, lifts and other equipment to help us with heavy objects.

Get help from other persons if an object is too heavy or bulky to lift safely.

When planning a lift, first examine the load and determine if it is too large or bulky to lift safely by yourself.

Check for spills, loose rugs, extension cords and other hazards that may be in your path.

When preparing to lift, make sure you have good footing and balance.

Always keep your back straight and your head up when bending over to pick up a load.

Lift the load with your legs; remember that your back provides support and shouldn't do the lifting.

Tighten your stomach muscles when lifting. This will give support to the spine.

After raising the load, keep it close to your body to help maintain balance

and keep the weight distributed to the legs.

Remember to use the same techniques when putting down the load.

Avoid twisting and turning while lifting; this puts enormous strain on your back.

Avoid the common lifting shortcut of overreaching.

Overreaching puts tremendous strain on the lower back; reposition yourself instead or remove obstacles to get closer to the load.

Watching your body weight and exercising can help make lifting easier on your back.



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VIEWPOINTS

Yuma Proving Ground recently staged its annual Safety Week, during which employees took eight hours of safety-related training. For this viewpoint, we asked which safety week class was most interesting?



Spc. Brandon Pemberton
Medic

I taught a range-responder first aid class, and thought the presentation on heat stress injuries was very good and related to my class. TRAX did a very good job talking about backing up accidents and situational awareness while driving, especially at night. I've worked with tracked vehicles before at Fort Hood and their presentation made a lot of sense.

James Cowen
TRAX

The fire extinguisher training was very interesting. It was hands-on and involved putting out a fire in a fire pit. It reminded everyone things like testing the fire extinguisher before aiming it at the fire, and to never attempt to put out a fire without identifying an exit path first.



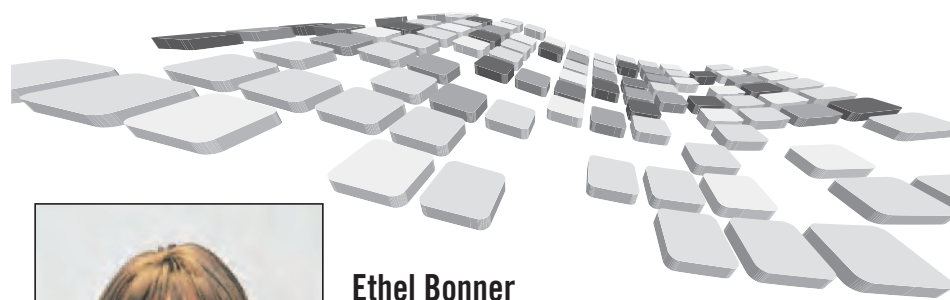
M.J. Nance
Production Controller

I think this was the best Safety Week training ever! The core, TRAX, and CPR sessions served as reinforcement of previous training and reminders of the serious consequences of complacency. The speakers' presentations held my attention and encouraged audience participation. The CPR class had a lot of information about the latest techniques.

Christopher Lee

Army Substance Abuse Program Manager

The security class that showed the FBI video on terrorism was very good. What was interesting was how they showed a person who was convicted of espionage and how the people around him overlooked and justified a lot of small, telling clues about his conduct. It was presented in a very polished package that was fascinating.



Ethel Bonner
Human Resources Specialist

I found the security class interesting. There were interesting tips about cell phones and not wearing ID badges outside of work. The core class was very engaging, too.

Gary Douglas
Test Engineer

The ammo track was structured very well. It's nice to have a refresher on ammunition safety every year. The general environmental training had updated information about the laws regarding off-road driving.



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Returning Veterans offer valuable skills to tech employers

With the Iraq War over and the Afghanistan conflict winding down, military veterans face the transition back into civilian life. The industry posed to benefit most from the veterans' skill set is the tech sector.

Many tech bloggers and industry professionals think veterans are actually the perfect hire in technology fields because they have strong technologic backgrounds in some of the industry's hottest needs, including:

- Network setup, monitoring, troubleshooting and security
- Geospatial technology and geographic information systems (GIS)
- Esri software applications and engineering
- Multiple technology skills that when coupled with business and management fundamentals prepares them for supervisory and managerial positions

"Veterans have received some of the best training in the world and most likely have used the latest technology and equipment currently in use," says retired Air Force Lt. Col.

Paul Capicik, vice president, military programs and a 26-year veteran and former corporate CIO.

Veterans offer potential employers not only valuable military critical skills, but business-friendly skills that military members gain while serving their country and follow them into today's very competitive business environment.

Capicik points out, that business-friendly skills learned through training and experience in the military, but often not taught in the civilian education system include: showing up on time, being a team player, critically focusing on the task at hand, being objective and goal oriented, having a keen consciousness for security and safety and demonstrating leadership and decision-making capabilities.

"IT departments are finding that recruiting an employee who can show up on time, demonstrate leadership or be a team player and, most of all, be highly motivated, is pretty tough. From the stories I hear, the labor pool

is full of slackers," says Wayne Rash on eWeek.com.

Many active military members start voluntary education in military-friendly programs at online schools like American Sentinel University to gain the additional skills needed in the civilian world. Even after the transition, most have veteran GI Bill benefits to finish what they started on active duty, or broaden their credentials to enhance their value to a civilian employer.

"Veterans know that employment competition, especially now, is fierce. And the person with the most education, experience and certification will likely get the job," says Capicik.

Whatever the job, one thing is for sure: recruiters and employers are looking for employees with strong technological backgrounds. Some of the biggest technology companies such as Microsoft, Google, AT&T and LinkedIn have stepped up to add veterans to their workforce.

As an added

incentive, employers may earn a tax credit for hiring a veteran. "With the current Congressional and White House support for hiring a vet, there has never been a better time for current military and veterans to enhance their hiring potential through an advanced online degree," says Capicik.

American Sentinel University is a proud supporter of the military, offering distance learning degrees and certification programs that are relevant to students' military and post-military careers.

American Sentinel is a military-friendly university, offering military education benefits to active-duty and non-active-duty service members, veterans, reservists, auxiliary and their spouses. For more information on American Sentinel's distance learning degrees and certification programs relevant to students' military and post-military careers, visit <http://www.americansentinel.edu/military>.

Award ceremony recognizes YPG employees



The NCO and Soldier of the Quarter ceremony was held on April 25 in the atrium of the Range Operations Center. Over 50 people watched 17 members of the Yuma Proving Ground workforce receive recognition for outstanding work performance and dedication to the mission. In these photos, Col. Reed Young, YPG commander, recognizes the NCO and Soldier of the Quarter by presenting Staff Sgt. Normand Landeros, preventive medicine specialist, and Sgt. Jonathan Park, medic from the YPG Health Clinic, with Army Achievement Medals.

PHOTO BY MARK SCHAUER

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Installation Management Command employees receive awards

The Garrison leadership, workforce, and YPG Commander gathered to have breakfast and recognize several employees during the Garrison's Quarterly Employee Recognition breakfast recently at the Cactus Cafe. With Charlie Poulton as emcee, Rick Martin, garrison manager, and Col. Reed Young, YPG commander, presented (30) Length of Service awards for federal service, two Army Achievement Medals for civilian service, four Commander's and five Garrison coins, and two Garrison's 2nd Quarter Interactive Customer Evaluation (ICE) awards to a group of outstanding YPG garrison employees. Although not all employees were present to receive their award due to mission, Juanita Saez stated, "the Garrison leadership is committed to recognizing everyone individually for their outstanding contributions." In this photo, Connie Everly and Jackie Bailey are being presented with certificates for 30 years of federal service. Approximately 27 individuals were recognized at the ceremony.

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About Dr. Aiello



Patrick D. Aiello, MD

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

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

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

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