

THE OUTPOST

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

Volume 41 No. 30 August 13, 2012

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

Army test officials prepare for future

By Chuck Wullenjohn

From the highest level to the lowest, everyone knows that effective communication is a vital commodity, something of which one can never have too much.

With the purpose being to share information and build relationships, test center commanders and senior leaders from throughout the nation gathered for three days of intense discussions at Yuma Proving Ground's Palm Gardens Conference Center in late July. Led by Maj. Gen. Genaro Dellarocco, commander of the Army Test and Evaluation Command (ATEC), the over 60 participants took part in a schedule that kept them busy each day from morning until well into the evening.

"ATEC is a diverse command, both in terms of the many missions performed and geography," said Dellarocco. He has traditionally gathered together his commanders twice each year, the last



Maj. Gen. Genaro Dellarocco, commander of the Army Test and Evaluation Command, prepares to fire one of several small arms available on Graze Range during the hot-environment orientation portion of the ATEC Commanders' Conference hosted by YPG in late July. PHOTO BY MARK SCHAUER

time in January at the Cold Regions Test Center, Alaska.

"I want our senior leadership to be personally exposed to these dynamics, for extreme temperatures have a great effect on people and equipment." This, he said, helps test managers serve their customers,

America's warfighters, in the best manner possible.

Dellarocco said part of the conference's value is the networking that occurs among participants, for they are widely spread throughout the nation, but he also takes the opportunity to impart a great amount of information

from the highest levels of the Army. This enables each test center commander to configure local operations in accordance with budget realities, testing thrusts and initiatives of senior Army leaders.

"Having this dialogue with my senior leaders is vitally

important," he said.

One of the highlights was going downrange amid 110 degree afternoon temperatures to fire weapons, see exhibits and ride an armored vehicle along a desert road.

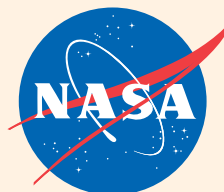
"Our intention was to give them personal experience of what our Soldiers go through overseas and what our testers do each day," said Col. Reed Young, Yuma Proving Ground commander. "They wore body armor, helmets and eye protection amid the heat of the desert which, I'm sure, was a highlight for those who had never done it before."

A great deal of preparation went into the conference and Young feels it was a "tremendous" success. "Team YPG really stepped up to the plate to make this a well organized, well orchestrated event. I received a great many highly laudatory comments from conference participants."

see **PREPARE** on page 2 for more photos

AUGUST IS:
AT AWARENESS
MONTH

NASA and YPG
working towards
Mars
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Apology from
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PREPARE

FROM COVER



(Left) Attendees were mesmerized by the festive performance by YPG's Ballet Folklore at the Yuma Country Club dinner. Ed Duppstadt said: "To see a performance like this before your eyes, is amazing. I really appreciated the entertainment by these beautifully dressed and smiling ladies. What a treat." (Right) Army Evaluation Center director David Jimenez (left) examines items commonly used by insurgents to make improvised explosive devices. The counter-IED mission is an important part of YPG's workload.



Attendees at the Army Test and Evaluation Command Commanders' Conference took time out of their busy schedule for a group photo. Although everyone looks happy, cool and comfortable, they all were true troopers, for they were sitting in the hottest time of the day, 1 p.m., for this photo! The week-long event kept everyone busy with numerous briefings and social commitments.

PHOTOS BY YPG PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICE



Luis Arroyo, chief of the YPG Training Exercise Management Office, briefs attendees at Graze Range before they set out for an up-close and personal look at systems tested at YPG.

Another productive summer pastime: Vacation Bible School!

By Lucy Rivera

Yuma Proving Ground's chapel hosted its annual Vacation Bible School (VBS) earlier this summer, a program that specializes in religious education for kindergarten to fifth grade students during summer vacation.

This year's theme was "Sky," which focuses on everything in the cosmos above the earth. "The program emphasizes what God has done. He placed all those things in the sky and can do anything for us, no matter who we are," said Kathy

Crain, the chapel's coordinator of Protestant education.

VBS is a week-long program that encourages children to learn about the Bible and provide a foundation of religious belief. "We want to connect them with Jesus," explained Chaplain (Maj.) Loren Hutsell when asked about the program's purpose.

The week began with four stations of games and activities, one of which was the "imagination station" that included a science experiment involving the floatation of objects.

see **VBS** page 4



Jenny Mathis, Vacation Bible School volunteer, shows children how small objects float in midair through the use of heated air. One of four activity stations, the purpose of each was to build a foundation of religious belief.

PHOTO BY LUCY RIVERA

Children spend time reading over the summer

By Lucy Rivera

Many YPG community children not only spent the summer swimming, sleeping in late or watching television, but keeping up their reading skills. Parents made sure that their children continue reading throughout this time to assure they would not forget the importance of keeping up their reading levels. As a matter of fact, experts recommend that reading be included in all summer time activities.

It has been statistically proven that when students continue reading during the summer, their reading levels remain at a high level and they will not lose what they learned during the previous school year. This is why the YPG Library offered a reading program during the summer.

The Post Library has more than 40,000 books, audio books, video tapes and DVDs, with more soon to arrive. These materials are available to everyone at YPG, and what a better way to beat the summer heat and boredom than in the cool and comfortable environment of your post library.

With a limited staff and only a few volunteers, the YPG library continues to offer summer reading programs for all children from preschool to grade school that keep them reading and learning, plus have fun.

"We encourage children to read and, at the same time, get parents involved," said Carol Cowperthwaite, librarian. "This program is also available for adults and teens interested in reading."

At the end of the program, an award ceremony took place to reward students who took the initiative to continue reading during the summer. Other programs are offered at the library during the school year, such as crafts and a story time.



Summer time readers were recently presented with awards for those who read the most books while other had the opportunity to pick out more books for their reading enjoyment. PHOTO BY LUCY RIVERA

For those who cannot make it to the library, programs are available online. These include multiple databases, such as "Transparent Language" and "Freegal Music" (which is music that may be downloaded to a personal computer). The library also provides a variety of other services: online renewals, inter-library loans, an automated system that sends overdue notices, and a library electronic card catalog that allows access to eBooks, activities for kids, and databases from home.

Cowperthwaite said that for those wishing to use internet services there are seven commercial computers and three computers connected to the network available for use by active duty, retirees, civil service and contractor employees, and family members. However, children ages 14 and under need parental consent before they are able to use library computers. There are two computers loaded with educational programs that are available for children as well.

The summer hours of operation for the library are Tuesday through Thursday from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. and Friday and Saturday from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Until your child is big enough, give'em a boost!

On **August 2, 2012** a new law went into effect that requires children under age 8 to be restrained in a booster seat.

These seats can be found at retail stores that sell car seats for as little as \$20.

The purpose of a booster seat is to make the vehicle seat belt fit your child. The child sits on top of the booster seat with a lap and shoulder belt and is then buckled into to the car with the seat belt over them. By lifting your child up in the booster seat, this makes the seat belt fit correctly.

Need help?

Visit www.SafeKidsMaricopaAZ.org for a technician in your community.



WHY A Booster?

- Motor vehicle crashes are the leading cause of death for children between 5 and 8 years old. Many of these children were not properly restrained.
- The use of belt-positioning booster seats lowers the risk of injury to children aged 4-8 years by 45 percent compared with the use of seat belts alone.
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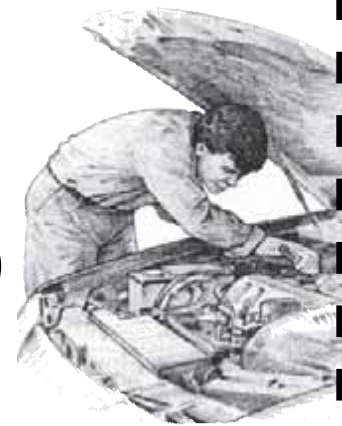
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VIEWPOINTS

August is Anti-Terrorism Month. Members of the YPG workforce were asked: Why do you think this is important?



Rudy Rodriguez
Strategic Plans Specialist

I think in this time, in this day and environment, where there are folks out there that mean us harm, it requires all of us to be part of this anti-terrorism effort and keep our vigilance and our situational awareness up.



Jim Walk
Operations Officer

We have been at war for over a decade because of the terrorist acts on 9/11. So, Anti-terrorism Awareness Month provides a reminder of this threat and that we need to be ever vigilant against it.

Alysha Miller
Office Support

Anti-terrorism awareness is a critical aspect of our profession, both on and off duty. The continued protection of our facilities and our people requires the eternal vigilance of every member of the Army family. By sustaining awareness, the community acts as sensors and an extension of our police and security forces.



Ron Rodriguez

Director of Plans Training, Mobilization & Security

The importance of Anti-terrorism Awareness Month to me is keeping in mind that we need to be aware of what's going on around us, keep situational awareness, and if we see something suspicious, we should report it. We live in a time that we are not as safe as we think we are. Anti-terrorism Awareness Month emphasizes just that.



Robert Hallahan
Security Manager

Too many tragedies such as Fort Hood, Tucson and the Colorado shootings have reminded us to continue to be educated, safety-aware, and report suspicious activity.



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 **Yuma Ballet Academy**
Jon Cristofori and Kathleen Sinclair, Directors

VBS

FROM PAGE 2

Jenny Mathis, VBS volunteer, was presenter at the station exhibiting the ability of small objects to float in midair through the use of heated air. "The purpose of the experiment was to teach kids that, no matter what shape or size, you are to trust in God," she said.

Kellie Pacella is a mother of three and, as a child, she attended VBS. As a parent, she volunteers and brings

her children to VBS every summer. "This is a great way to give the children a godly foundation," she said. "Our purpose is to build and establish faith in them when they are young."

Towards the end of the school each day, children gathered for the "fly away finale." They joined together during this time to sing and act out stories from the Bible. Parents were invited to join in, also getting the opportunity to watch a slide presentation of the day's activities.

Volunteer coaches needed at Youth Center

By Lucy Rivera

As a young girl, Yolanda Zepeda, sports director and program manager for Yuma Proving Ground's Youth Services, felt a strong pull towards children that led to her to devoting time and effort to them. "In the 6th grade, I helped out in a kindergarten room," said Zepeda, "I just loved working with children." Her devotion led to work at YPG's Youth Services.

Born in Downey, Calif., and raised in Los Angeles, Zepeda moved to Yuma 14 years ago with her parents. "We just got tired of the craziness in California and wanted to be closer to our family here in Yuma," she said, "Now I can't seem to leave -- I love it." She currently holds a certification in children development, has been at YPG for 11 years, and is pursuing college degrees in child development in the near future.

Zepeda began her career at YPG

as a flex employee and then moved up to a program lead at the preschool room for the Children Development Center (CDC). An opportunity later became available as sports director for Youth Services and she applied for the job, which she received. As sports director, she is responsible for organizing all sport programs for children ages 3-12.

"Though I left the CDC, I enjoy working with small children very much," she said. "It gave me the opportunity to see them grow and develop into mature people with good goals and ethics." Her other duties include organizing special events and activities for teens.

Zepeda says one of her major challenges is managing her time. "This is a big thing, for everything that goes on at the youth center must meet all standards and requirements," she explained.

The annual calendar is divided into sports seasons, as all sports fans know. "We start with flag football

and cheerleading in August, and continue with soccer and T-ball in the winter," said Zepeda. These sports are offered for children between the ages of 3 and 12, but the center is working on providing programs for older teens.

Registration for flag football and cheerleading is ongoing and available for anyone affiliated with YPG. To register a child, an application from the Youth Center must be filled out. A physical is required in addition to a registration fee that covers trophies, jerseys and pictures. Next registration will take place at the Parent Central Registration located next to the CDC.

The Youth Center is always looking for volunteers. All volunteers must fill out an information packet that includes a background check. Training sessions for coaches are provided by the Youth Center at no charge. For more information, contact Yolanda Zepeda via email or at ext. 2860.



Yolanda Zepeda (left) sports director, supervises the work of one of many teens at the Youth Center. Zepeda is calling on members of the workforce to come forth and apply to volunteer as coaches for the Youth Center's fall athletic programs. PHOTO BY LUCY RIVERA

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NASA parachute drop at YPG: one step closer to Mars

By Mark Schauer

With the retirement of the space shuttle and cancellation of the replacement Ares Rocket System, many assume the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) has been stripped of its mission to explore the universe. But this is far from accurate.

Despite setbacks, development of the next generation of space exploration craft continues, and, as it has been since the testing of a precursor to the lunar rover in 1966, YPG is playing an active role in supporting the race to outer space. Testing of the Capsule Parachute Assembly System (CPAS) for the Orion Space Capsule is underway at the proving ground, with the completion of the fifth in a series of 18 evaluations to be conducted at YPG through 2015.

“We must put the parachutes

through a very rigorous series of tests to ensure the deployments can be successful through a range of situations,” said Chris Johnson, CPAS project manager.

“We have a legacy of testing at YPG that dates back to the X-38 in the 1980s,” added Koki Machin, NASA chief engineer for CPAS. “I’ve worked at other installations, and YPG is easily the best site to work with.”

Orion is a state-of-the-art reusable crew capsule that will someday take a crew of four astronauts to the moon and Mars, and the parachutes that

will bring it safely back to Earth are just as sophisticated. The rope that makes up the parachutes’ cord is made of Kevlar, the strong synthetic fiber used in body armor. Each main parachute consists of 10,000 square feet of fabric: the CPAS system is designed to deploy sequentially and pass through two stages prior to being fully open. Even if there is an error in the deployment sequence, however, engineers still count on the CPAS to safely slow the nearly 10-ton Orion capsule from its rapid

reentry into Earth’s atmosphere to a languid landing speed of 17 miles per hour.

For July’s test, YPG’s parachute riggers intentionally packed the first parachute to deploy incorrectly, and

The fifth of 18 scheduled tests of the Capsule Parachute Assembly System (CPAS) for the Orion space capsule took place at YPG in late July. In the test shown here, one of the three large main parachutes, which are designed to deploy in sequence to safely slow the nearly 10-ton Orion capsule from its rapid reentry into earth’s atmosphere to a languid landing speed of 17 miles per hour, was intentionally packed to deploy incorrectly. The system adjusted to the flaw as it was designed to do, and landed safely on one of YPG’s drop zones after a 90-second flight from a C-17 cargo plane flying at 25,000 feet.



Each main parachute in the CPAS system consists of 10,000 square feet of fabric, which makes recovery following a drop a task for multiple personnel. YPG workers also have to recover the palette the mock capsule is deployed off of, along with its two parachutes, as well as instrumentation packages that are dropped subsequent to the test article to measure meteorological data.

PHOTOS BY YPG PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICE

test officers carefully monitored the drop to ensure the system could safely compensate for the failure, as it is designed to do. Preparations were extensive, starting with the mock-up of the Orion capsule the parachutes are attached to.

Since the actual Orion crew module is slightly taller than the height of a C-17 cargo bay, engineers used a scale model called the drop test article to mimic its shape, allowing them to accurately measure the parachutes' performance. The capsule was dropped from a C-17 cargo plane flying at an altitude of 25,000 feet, extracted from the cargo bay on a palette with two 28 foot parachutes attached to it. The capsule was then separated from the palette, after which two programmer parachutes and two drogue parachutes were deployed prior to the triggering of the three main parachutes. From drop to touchdown, the capsule's journey took less than four minutes, witnessed by scores of support personnel on the drop zone along with representatives from a variety of local, state, and national media outlets.

Once the drop was completed, YPG personnel fanned out and carefully recovered the massive deployed parachutes and lines from the desert floor. The July heat was sweltering, even in the early morning hours, but the workers gathered the fabric slowly and methodically: testers want to evaluate any damage



Though the drop test article is smaller than the actual Orion capsule, it still requires a large crane to lift. Here, the mock capsule is carefully maneuvered onto a low boy trailer from YPG's motor pool after the test drop.

that may have occurred to the chutes, and know that it was not incurred from the recovery efforts. As they trucked the packed parachutes back to the Air Delivery Complex, where the parachutes were suspended from a high ceiling and carefully studied, workers from YPG's motor pool used

a large crane to lift the heavy capsule onto a lowboy trailer for transport back to Yuma.

There is much more to come. YPG is scheduled to complete two more tests before the year is out, with a drop involving a test dart later this month and another test involving the

mock capsule in the winter.

"The test was very successful," said Craig Mulloy, test officer. "It's cool to think that we're a part of space exploration of the future."

Dozens of NASA and YPG personnel associated with the test pose for a photo with the mock Orion capsule after the successful drop. Dozens more support each drop from the mission control room many miles away, and in other locations.



THE OUTPOST

The Outpost is an unofficial publication authorized under provisions of AR 360-1. The Outpost is published every two weeks by the Public Affairs Office, Yuma Proving Ground. Views and opinions expressed are not necessarily those of the Army. This newspaper uses material credited to ATEC and ARNEWS. While contributions are solicited, the PAO reserves the right to edit all submitted materials and make corrections, changes or deletions to conform with the policy of this newspaper.

News may be submitted to:

The Editor, Outpost, Yuma Proving Ground, Yuma, AZ, 85365.

Phone: (928) 328-6143/6189 or DSN 899-6143.

Visit our website at: www.yuma.army.mil
or email to: yolanda.o.canales.civ@mail.mil

Commander: Col. Reed F. Young

Public Affairs Officer: Chuck Wullenjohn

Public Affairs Specialist/Editor: Yolanda Canales

Public Affairs Specialist: Mark Schauer

Writer/Editor: Lucy Rivera

Marketing: Teri Womack

Technical Editor, Cold Regions Test Center: Clara Zachgo



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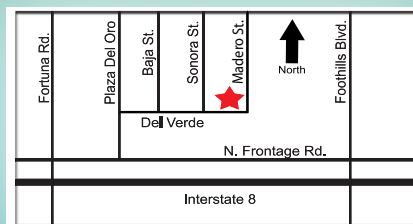
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Apology letter from United Blood Services

On behalf of the United Blood Services, I would like to apologize for the long wait time and not being able to allow all donors to participate at the recent Yuma Proving Ground blood drive on July 19, and any inconvenience this may have caused.

Each blood donation is precious and we consider each donor to be a hero. We did not anticipate the tremendous support we received. We are taking measures to ensure this does not occur at future blood drives at YPG.

I would also like to thank you for your time and dedication to the community blood program. The YPG blood drive helped save over 126 area

hospital's patient's lives.

If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me at 480-310-1606. I sincerely hope we can look forward to seeing you again at the next blood drive.

Again, our apologies for the long waiting time and thank you for your support to the Arizona community blood program.

Sincerely,

Kristen Manning

Donor Recruitment Representative
United Blood Services



Giving the 'Gift of Life'

United Blood Services reported that 47 donors stepped up to help save lives during their recent blood drive held at YPG. This resulted in 35 donations taken from the Yuma Proving Ground community, thus reaching 175 percent of a successful blood drive goal. For those individuals wishing to give the 'gift of life' in the near future, look for the advertisement via email or the Outpost. UBS recommends making appointments ahead of time in order to avoid delays or turn-aways.

PHOTO BY LUCY RIVERA

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Chaplain's Corner

By Chaplain Loren Hutsell

Since arriving at YPG in January, I have continually been impressed with the upkeep of the post. Streets are clean of garbage, lawns are manicured, and we have a world-class parade field. There is a lot of community pride in the way we keep our homes, yards, and parks. We have all worked hard to make it a better facility and environment, and

in doing so this beautiful post reflects an Army of discipline and community care. Those who someday replace us will enjoy the reward of our diligence and hard work. The importance of doing our part in keeping our post nice is illustrated in the following parable by an unknown author:

There was a king who had a great highway built for the members of his kingdom. After it was completed, but before it was opened to the public,

the king decided to have a contest. He invited as many as desired to participate. Their challenge was to see who could travel the highway the best. The winner would receive a bag of gold.

On the day of the contest, all the people came. Some of them had fine chariots and horses, some had beautiful clothing, and others brought delicious food to make the trip a luxurious journey. A few came ready to run the highway and finish first. People traveled the highway all day, but each one, when he or she arrived at the end, complained to the king that there was a large pile of rocks and debris left on the road. It got in their way and hindered their travel.

At the end of the day, a lone traveler crossed the finish line wearily and walked over to the king. He was tired and dirty, but he approached the king and handed him a bag of gold. He explained, "I

stopped along the way to clear a pile of rocks and debris that was blocking the road. This bag of gold was under it all. Please return it to its rightful owner."

The king replied, "You are the rightful owner."

The traveler replied, "Oh no, this is not mine. I've never known such money."

"Oh yes," said the king, "you've earned this gold, for you won my contest. The one who travels the road best is the one who makes the road better for those who will follow."

Great job of making our post a beautiful place to live. You have traveled the road the best!

Let your light so shine before others, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father who is in heaven. Matthew 5:16

How wonderful it is that nobody need wait a single moment before starting to improve the world. Anne Frank

Safety Corner

Vehicle ground guides, use them

Here at YPG, operators maneuver all sorts of equipment in all types of operations, including uploading/downloading heavy equipment, maneuvering on unimproved roads, and maintenance and service operations.

Many are aware that YPG has had several vehicle mishaps due to improper ground guiding or lack thereof. That is not a good news story. Ground guiding procedures must be used to ensure personnel and equipment are maneuvered safely. Army Regulation 385-10, The Army Safety Program, indicates that ground guides are required when wheeled and tracked vehicles are backed, or when moved within an assembly area or motor pool. Ground guides are to be trained properly in accordance with visual signals, manual for the wheeled vehicle operator, and tracked combat vehicle driver training.

Here are some tips to keep in mind when conducting ground guiding operations:

Ensure drivers understand they must immediately stop if they lose sight of the ground guide or don't

understand a signal.

Make sure everyone understands the basic signals to control vehicle drivers.

Position front ground guides to the left front of vehicles. Never allow a ground guide to walk directly in the vehicle's path. Ground guides and drivers must understand this.

When using two ground guides, they must maintain visual contact with each other. The front ground guide must stop the vehicle if he or she loses sight of the rear ground guide.

Ensure the ground guide, not the vehicle commander, is in charge of the vehicle. Whenever the vehicle is under the control of a ground guide, the only command the vehicle commander should issue to the driver is "stop."

Following these ground guiding safety tips can help avoid major damage to a piece of equipment or a fatal injury. Supervisors should ensure ground guides are being utilized during maneuvering operations.



Thirteen employees recognized

Col. Reed Young (right, in background) YPG commander and Julio Dominguez (left, second row), presented awards to 13 YPG employees for numerous safety precautions taken to prevent accidents that could result in injuries to coworkers. KUDOS to each employee!

PHOTO BY LUCY RIVERA

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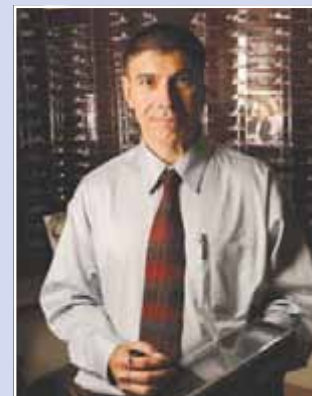
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