

THE OUTPOST

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

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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

Commander's Christmas Message

It has been a rewarding, fast-paced year at Yuma Proving Ground and, as 2012 comes to an end, my family and I wish every member of the YPG team a safe and happy holiday season.

This year, you have once again proven you are a workforce of dedicated professionals and a true asset to our Army and the Department of Defense.

During this season, please remember the men and women - military, civilian, and contractors - who are away from their families and friends at this special time of year. These are the Americans we support daily at YPG through our testing mission. As the Army's busiest proving ground, we have done our job well and will continue to excel in 2013.

This is a risky time of year, so please be especially safe in all you do. Holidays bring us happiness; but ironically, they also often include too many avoidable tragedies. Please don't drink and drive, get appropriate rest during long drives, and remember to think "safety" during any holiday activity. Take care of yourself, take care of your family, and take care of your teammates to insure everybody comes back next year.

My wife, Norma, and my son, Brian, join me in wishing all of you a happy holiday season. Thank you for a wonderful year and here's looking forward to an even better one next year.

Reed F. Young
Colonel, LG



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VIEWPOINTS

What holiday traditions do you look forward to celebrating this Christmas season?



Jonathan Gonzalez

Electronic engineer, TRTC

We have a Christmas tree and set up colored lights around the house. We have a big dinner with ham and turkey, but also tamales, rice and chicken, and much more. Pine trees grow in Panama in the interior at high elevations, but our Christmas trees are imported. Panama has many cultures so there are many holiday traditions.



Julio Zambrano

Test director, TRTC

I am not from this area and I look forward to visiting my parents in Texas each year. I enjoy their company – we exchange gifts, we cook together and my parents play with their grandchildren. We stay 10 to 15 days. This is the only time I get to see them and I look forward to it a great deal. It is much colder there than Yuma and I'm not used to it anymore. I think I like the Yuma winter weather better.



Julio Villegas

Electronic engineer, TRTC

My family is from Columbia so my traditions originated there. We try to assemble together as many members of the family as possible for a Christmas Eve dinner, then open gifts in the morning. We place a nativity scene in our house on December 8th. It is a very detailed scene to which my mother adds each year. It consists of dozens of figurines. Last year, she added a river with running water made from a fountain. Of course, we also have a Christmas tree.

Terry Barton

Deputy program manager, TRTC

I have been in Suriname for three Christmas seasons, a multi-cultural country consisting of five cultures – Christian, Muslim, Chinese, indigenous peoples, and Jewish. There's a variety of interesting cultural events. Not many Christmas trees in Suriname– mostly street decorations. This year, I will spend the holidays in Panama. The most interesting time in Suriname is New Years – the people explode a huge number of fireworks all night long. By far, it's the biggest fireworks display that lasts for hours.



Hi-Sing Silen-Soto

Test officer, TRAX

Being of Puerto Rican descent but raised in Panama, I have many holiday traditions I miss. But the most important one I look forward to is being able to be with my family, who, this year, will come to visit me at YPG! My Puerto Rican traditions I miss are “Las Parandas Navidenas,” lechon a la varita, coquito drink and pastel en hoja. One Panamanian tradition is, “Aroz con coco y guandules and pan rozca.” Riquisimo!



THE OUTPOST

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YPG gets new number for emergencies

The Yuma Proving Ground Directorate of Emergency Services has formally established 9-1-1 as the emergency phone number at the proving ground. The formerly used numbers of 328-2117 for fire/emergency medical services and 328-2911 for police have been abolished. The new number will reach any emergency division (police, fire or emergency medical services.)

The YPG Fire Department asks that all 328-2117 stickers be removed from phones, emergency plans and fire warden signs. The primary emergency number while on the

ranges remains 328-5111, but 9-1-1 can be used if necessary.

A significant change in the new system is that housing and other non-328 prefix landline phones on YPG will be received directly by the YPG dispatch center when 9-1-1 is dialed. Previously, 9-1-1 dialed on a non-328 prefix line went to an off-post dispatch center and had to be transferred back to YPG. This caused a delay in the caller getting help. Now, the YPG dispatch center will receive the call directly, regardless of the calling party's location at YPG.

Further, this enhanced system

provides the YPG Emergency Services Dispatch Center with the caller's phone number and location. The dispatch center can now get emergency forces on the way even if the line is cut or the caller loses consciousness. Remember, 9-1-1 should only be used for reporting emergencies.

It must be understood that cell phone users who dial 9-1-1 will not be received at the YPG Dispatch Center. Cell phone 9-1-1 dialers will be connected with the Yuma County Sheriff's Office or the nearest free 9-1-1 dispatch center if the sheriff's office line is busy. It is imperative

that any cell phone 9-1-1 YPG caller specifically tells the dispatcher that he or she is at Yuma Proving Ground and needs the "YPG Police" or "YPG Fire Department." The dispatcher will then transfer the call to the YPG Dispatch Center.

The non-emergency business line available for YPG Police is 328-2720. For fire or emergency medical services, non-emergency numbers are 328-2316 or 328-3764.

New 9-1-1 phone stickers can be picked up at the YPG Fire Department (buildings 611, 1220, 3013, or 3189) or by calling a fire inspector at 328-2316.

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A uniformed military gun crew fires a 105mm M101 howitzer at the beginning of Yuma's second annual El Toro Bowl football game. The howitzer had been "spiffed up" prior to its display at the event, even bearing the name "El Toro" on its barrel.

PHOTO BY MARK
SCHAUER



YPG cannon 'fires' away at El Toro Bowl

By Mark Schauer

It wasn't a title game like last year, but nearly 3,000 fans at Yuma's Veterans Memorial Stadium recently witnessed the No. 12 ranked Arizona Western College Matadors hold off the tenacious, No. 6 ranked Nassau Community College Lions in an exciting 42-37 win.

The warm, tranquil weather stood in stark contrast to last year's cool and windy bluster, which made YPG's participation in the event much more effective.

The loud report of the ceremonial blanks fired from the M101A1 artillery piece after each kickoff and at the close of every quarter cracked

through every corner of the stadium, thrilling spectators.

Like last year, the weapons operation team christened the howitzer the "El Toro," but this time added an intricate bull's head to the stenciling on the gun's tube.

"It's good for YPG to have a visible contribution to the community," said Col. Reed Young, YPG commander, who manned a concession booth at the game. "We've spent a great deal of time this year coordinating with AWC to 'build the bench' with technological and engineering programs, and supporting this event has both tangible and intangible benefits. The community has been good to us, and it's good to support them."

Staff Sgt. Matthew Prager once again commanded the ceremonial firing crew, and was joined by fellow Airborne Test Force members Staff Sgt. Maikeld Quarles, Staff Sgt. Aaron Engleman, and Sgt.

Cherica Ibarra. Charles Frost and Kelly Brunswick from the weapons operation team were on hand for safety, as was ammo handler Joseph Covarrubias.

Erika Acle
Manager

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November Go-Getters



Congratulations to Jessica May, 5th grade and Serena Prager, 4th grade students from Mrs. Green's class, for being selected Price Elementary School "Go-Getters" for the month of November.



Join us for CHRISTMAS EVE

At Yuma Proving Ground Post Chapel

Monday, Dec. 24th 6 p.m.

The service will include special music, a children's story, lighting the Advent candle, congregational singing, a Christmas message, and passing the candle light!

CHAPLAIN'S CORNER

Toward a hopeful future

By Chaplain Loren (Maj.) Hutsell

The apocalyptic movie "2012" came out a couple of years ago. The plot of the movie surrounds the Mayan calendar. According to certain experts, the Mayan Calendar cycle is 1,872,000 days long. The calendar cycle began in 3114 B.C. and on December 21st 2012, the cycle will end. Some doomsayers predict that the end of the world will happen on that day and we are to prepare ourselves for a catastrophic event. They recommend building bunkers and storing up water bottles and canned food. Of course, many similar experts gave the same kind of advice when the solar calendar went from 1999 to 2000. I think we all know how that turned out! On the day after, some of my friends had to sheepishly come out of their backyard bunker. I'm not paying heed to the Mayan calendar apocalypse prediction, and I recommend that you don't either. Mark 13:32 teaches that only God knows the hour when the end will come.

Mayan apocalypse doomsayers don't have special knowledge about the day the world will end. Nonetheless, I think it is important to think about the end of things. In this fall and winter season, the nights grow colder and the earth becomes brown and bare. These are symbols that point to the end of things. Psalm 90:12 says "teach us to realize the brevity of life, so that we may grow in wisdom." In other words, we're to realize that one day our lives will end. It's not a subject that many of us like to talk about. In fact, the very idea that there will be an end may be ominous to those who live pretty good lives and the future seems to hold more of the

same. The older or ill among us naturally think about this topic more often than the younger folks. Those of us who aren't ill or elderly are busy living in a sort of "slack tide," where the tide is neither coming in nor going out. The final end seems like such a long time away. But we all need to live with a healthy awareness of the end.

What if you knew you only had three months left to live? How would your life change? How would you be different at work? Would you make plans to visit family or travel? Would you fulfill something on your bucket-list? Would you pray more, go to church more, become more involved in God's work and mission on earth? Would you be more generous in your actions for others? Would you try to reconcile a broken relationship or friendship? Would you be more devoted to your family? Would you find a way to leave a positive mark on the world?

By answering yes to one or more of these possibilities, we realize there are changes to make in our lives. The great message of Christmas is that God has come to earth to redeem our lives. Because of His love for us, we can make each day count for eternity. God will help us be better stewards of the things with which He has entrusted us. He will also help us to follow His commandments and be more loving toward others. When it comes to making changes in our lives, Proverbs 3:5, 6 tells us, "Trust in the LORD WITH ALL YOUR HEART, AND LEAN NOT ON YOUR OWN UNDERSTANDING; in all your ways submit to Him, and He will make your paths straight." By placing our trust in God, when the end finally comes, we can know that we will be ready.

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Cold Regions Test Center's beginning: 1946 to 1953

Editor's Note: The Cold Regions Test Center (CRTC) has been an invaluable asset in the effort to provide the Warfighter with reliable and ever evolving information to increase the level of efficiency, safety, and effectiveness of both vehicles and equipment in the natural arctic environment. When CRTC first began, no one could have suspected it would grow into the Defense Department's premier testing facility for winter warfare.

**Submitted by
Jennifer Lawless,
Technical Editor**

After World War II, the war department decided that the American Warfighter must be able to live and operate in any degree of cold. Both the experience gained in combat and future predictions for cold related war efforts/obligations were the driving force for creating the arctic testing facility now known as CRTC.

Task Force Frigid and Task Force Williaw were dispatched to Alaska during the winters of 1946 and 1947 to test the Army's clothing, equipment, vehicles, and weapon systems in subzero temperatures, and collect data on how best to conduct operations in the cold.

In 1949, the Department

of the Army ordered the organization of the Arctic Test Branch at Big Delta Air Force Base (now known as Fort Greely), Alaska, which later became the Arctic Training Center. A cadre for the organization was activated at Fort Knox, Ky., in March 1949, by the transfer of personnel from each of the 'Army Field Force Boards.'

The United States Armed Forces became aware through World War II that changing a hat is not sufficient for cold weather operations.

In extreme cold climate conditions, some equipment must be exchanged, adapted, or even completely replaced in order to properly prepare the Warfighter for operations in the cold weather environment. Armored vehicle surfaces can become excessively cold and cause unprotected flesh to freeze to the metal. Many vehicles cannot even function properly at temperatures below zero, when fluids become viscous and metals and moving parts become brittle. Worldwide obligations of the Warfighter mandate that individuals must be able to move, shoot, and communicate in any region of the world and in any environment.

When facing seasonal cold weather without proper preparation, maintaining combat efficiency and



A T123 4.5-inch Multiple Rocket Launcher was tested to determine the equipment's suitability for artillery use under arctic conditions for 15 months. It proved successful in withstanding the effects of artillery use in the Arctic during all four seasons, with a few minor deficiencies unique to cold weather testing.

Loaned photos

preventing cold weather injuries are the Warfighter's priority. The information and data collected by Task Forces Frigid and Williaw during the winters of 1946 and 1947 was a good beginning, but more data was needed in order to build a proper case for a cold weather test organization.

A related trial unit, Task Force Frost, incorporated elements of the 66th Armored Regiment and underwent tests in Camp McCoy, Wisconsin, at roughly the same time. The major

shortcoming with these temporary task forces was a combination of the amount of time for travel, set up for living quarters, short testing durations, and then packing up to leave until the next winter year. The insufficient time to establish units on test sites, in addition to the lack of acclimatization period for both personnel and equipment, created a lack of continuity and the need for a long-term solution. Based on these results, it was recommended that a permanent test organization

be established, with test groups representing each of the "Army Field Force Boards" located in the "zone of the Interior" of Alaska.

In July of 1949, the Arctic Test Branch organization moved to Big Delta, Alaska, and test operations were initiated. In its early days during World War II, the Big Delta site served as a staging area for aircraft being ferried to Russia under the lend-lease agreement. It was not until 1953 that a permanent post was constructed and military testing ramped into full

Major donation helps local veterans

By Yolie Canales

The holiday season is traditionally a time when people give to the less fortunate, which brings cheers and smiles to many.

This is exactly what TRAX International, YPG's largest contractor, did when it recently presented a check in the amount of \$5,000 to the Yuma Veterans Fund.

TRAX International, a member of the Yuma community for over 22 years, has seen the needs of local veterans grow daily. "TRAX provides support to the Yuma Veterans Fund because the military veterans of this great nation need and deserve our help," said Brian Thompson, project manager for TRAX.

The firm recognizes, he went on to say, other organizations like the Veterans of Foreign Wars, American Legion and Veterans Administration already help veterans and their families, but the growing need is staggering and one group alone cannot meet all that is required. "As a locally focused



Judy Gresser (center) from the Yuma Community Foundation, smiles excitedly for the generous donation of \$5,000 made to the Yuma Veterans Fund by TRAX International of YPG. Presenting the check is TRAX Project Manager Brian Thompson (right) and Michelle Stoleson. (Loaned photo)

organization, the Yuma Veterans Fund helps Yuma veterans right here at home."

In addition to the donation, TRAX employees support veterans through their safety-related behavior and actions throughout the year.

"For every week that TRAX employees safely operate vehicles while backing up, our

company donates \$100 to the veteran's fund. Right now, we are on track and have already made several weekly donations and look forward to providing more," said Thompson.

"I was both delighted and shocked," said Judy Gresser, Western Regional Manager of the Arizona Community Foundation and manager of the Yuma Community Foundation, about the size of the TRAX contribution.

"We had been invited to the TRAX office to pick up what I thought would be a check for \$300, and was taken off guard. It was wonderful and the foundation is overwhelmed by the generosity."

Gresser said veterans are returning from overseas deployments broken with seen

and unseen wounds.

Even if returning veterans are in perfect health, they still have difficulty finding employment. Although many organizations help, substantial gaps exist.

"There is simply not enough money available," she said. "Organizations have funding limits and this is where the Yuma Veterans Fund helps. The purpose of this fund is not to compete with other organizations that serve Yuma County veterans, but to supplement/augment what is available."

Editor's Note:

To learn more on the Yuma Veterans Fund, visit www.AZFoundation.org/YumaVeterans, or call 539-5343.

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YPG ready for festival in January

Spirit of Yuma Military Festival on Yuma's Main Street will feature photography, artwork by American Soldiers

By Mark Schauer

A brass quintet band, Army artwork, and a celebration of the military will captivate Yuma's Main Street during the third annual Spirit of Yuma Military Festival held January 11-13.

Last year, more than 1,000 people attended the three-day event at and around the Yuma Art Center, and organizers expect an even bigger turnout next month. The centerpiece of YPG's exhibition was a collection of 40 high-quality reproductions of artwork produced through the decades by American Soldiers. Although a few of the most popular images will return for an encore in 2013, most of the paintings will be completely different.

"Last year we specifically tried to tie the paintings to YPG test programs or the Yuma region, but this time we are emphasizing Soldiers more," said Bill Heidner, Heritage Center curator. "The Vietnam era is more heavily represented, as is Fort Yuma and the earlier days of Army history."

Heidner says one wall will be devoted to paintings and lithographs produced by Soldiers during the famous frontier expedition of Army Col. Stephen Watts Kearny, which used the Yuma Crossing in 1846, four years before the founding of Fort

Yuma. The lithographs, produced by Lt. William Emory, were the first exposure many residents of the eastern United States had to the west's landscape and flora, Heidner said.

Like last year, the 62nd Army Band's brass quintet will perform rousing patriotic marches and jazz standards from the Big Band era at the Historic Yuma Theater all three days of the festival. YPG's Art Center display will be augmented by an unmanned aerial system and photo displays showing modern test activities at YPG's three test centers. Army helmets from the three major eras of the 20th century will be back, and visitors will also have an opportunity to see vintage copies of the Sidewinder, YPG's base newspaper from 1951 to 1981. YPG commander Col. Reed Young will speak at the festival's opening ceremony on Saturday, and Heidner and YPG Public Affairs Officer Chuck Wullenjohn will give Army and YPG-related presentations in the Historic Yuma Theater on Friday and Saturday.

"There are a wide variety of activities taking place at the festival," said Wullenjohn. "It is a great way to begin the year for the whole family. What's best is that it's both interesting and educational."

The festival's hours are 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Friday and Saturday, and 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Sunday.

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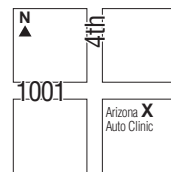
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Tree lighting ceremony a YPG tradition

By Yolie Canales

For over 30 years, the Yuma Proving Ground Public Affairs Office (PAO) has provided photo support to thousands of events taking place at YPG.

The most awaited and joyous event covered by PAO is the annual “Christmas Tree” lighting ceremony which attracts the entire military community, including many residents from the surrounding area.

Officially, this event kicks off Yuma’s holiday celebrations.

Over 150 people, including the most important guests – the children, gathered early this month on Cox Field for the annual ceremony sponsored by Yuma Proving Ground’s Family, Morale, Welfare and Recreation (FMWR) Directorate.

The ceremony kicked off with welcoming remarks by Gordon Rogers, deputy manager for YPG’s garrison.

Christmas carols were sung by attendees as they were led by Chaplain (Maj.) Loren Hutsell. The weather was

just right, not cold but cool enough to enjoy a bracing cup of hot chocolate and cookies — provided by FMWR.

As in the past, the surprise of the evening was Santa Claus’s arrival which brought gleaming smiles to children’s faces. Santa listened to many gift wishes from the children.

A highlight unique to this year’s celebration was the Christmas tree decoration contest involving several offices. In addition, two giant gift boxes filled with toys and other goodies were awarded.

In addition to this holiday event, an Angel Tree has been setup at the Post Exchange. The tree is adorned with angels (children’s names) so that anyone can make a selection and purchase a gift of your choice to make a child happy on Christmas morning.

Everyone is invited to come by and select an angel from the tree.

The deadline is December 12!



'Tis' the season to be giving



The holiday season is the time of year when good cheer is spread amongst one another. Rob Kimber (center) president of the Border Lodge 2282 of the International Association of Machinist and Aerospace Workers, presents a check in the amount of \$1,000 to Gordon Rogers, deputy manager for Garrison, as a contribution to Army Community Services, as YPG's Commander Col. Reed Young smiles. "Our members feel it is important to help service members and their families especially in this time of the year," said Glenn Villa, secretary/treasurer, who could not be available for the presentation.

PHOTO BY YOLIE CANALES



Customer Service Roll Call

Congratulations to the following personnel who are recognized for their great customer service at Yuma Proving Ground. YPG customers were so impressed with their service, they submitted ICE comments to tell us what a terrific job they did. If you would like to comment on our Service Providers go to <http://ice.disa.mil>



<p>Aljaberi, Khaldoon Arguelles, Vanessa Baker, Jineane Barragan, Arron Beinish, Spencer Bernard, Mike Bharat, Angelica Blevins, Lashunda Bowen, Bonnie Bowman, Christi Carson, John Canales, Yolanda Castanon, Bernie</p>	<p>Cimins, Tom Cunningham, Ellen Daley, Dan *Ellis, Marc* Everly, Connie Everett, Marc Gardner, Barb Gonzales, Carmela Gordon, Joyce Hamby, Janet Hehe, Les Honneffer, Richard Kilanski, Paul</p>	<p>***Lauzon, Carolyn*** Lee, Chris Lucero, Brian Mercer, Diana Meyers, Tracy Minner, Frances Moe, Greg Moore, Carol Moreno, Paul Moreno, Zeke Morse, Bob Ochoa, Megan</p>	<p>Orgeron, Cheryl Overstreet, Raquel Perkins, Amanda Pinto, Angelia Pollard, Matt Poradek, Nyana Ramos, Felipe Saez, Juanita Shiverts, Stephen Turner, Mitch Ward, Steve Williamson, Matt</p>
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A 'clean' YPG audit slated for 2014

By Yolie Canales

Yuma Proving Ground Auditor Sam Cunningham coordinated the visit of a team of instructors in early November to provide critical budget training to a variety of people at YPG, including all personnel in Garrison and Mission Resource Management, the Directorate of Logistics and the Mission and IMCOM Contracting Command. The mandatory training took place to prepare for the FY2014 audit which Defense Secretary Leon Panetta has instructed the Pentagon to complete to identify waste and track spending.

The Statement of Budgetary Resources shows the money in and

out of the department, including what funds the department receives, what is obligated, and what is spent in terms of checks written.

Cunningham explained this is referred to as a "clean budget." "We in the Department of Defense had hoped to have a clean financial statement way back in 1990," said Cunningham. "Here we are, 22 years later, and we still don't. So, now it has been mandated."

The YPG training was focused on proper documentation for all budget expenditures, in other words, efficiently accounting for all funds, no matter how small.

"Proper documentation will be required in the future, even for things that we didn't have

to document in the past" said Cunningham, adding that the reason they have not been able to produce "clean" financial statements in past years is due to the inadequacies of the financial accounting system in use. "This is why we have moved to the new GFEBS enterprise system."

Cunningham says this mandatory accounting system may have its challenges; however, the only hurdle right now is that GFEBS is new for everyone. "I foresee lots of teamwork and effort," he said, but once all the issues have been corrected, we will have met our requirements and the result will be a clean audit."

YPG holiday activities sponsored by Youth Services

Breakfast and Bowling with Santa. Saturday, Dec. 15th at the Coyote Lanes from 9 to 11 a.m. Come get a free picture with Santa ... the Grinch and elves will be present as well!

Santa visits on Christmas Eve - Have Santa Claus deliver a present to your child on the 24th between 6 and 8 p.m. Bring a wrapped gift to the Youth Center by Dec. 20th and Santa will arrive in a fire truck escorted by elves and the Grinch. This is a great way to spend Christmas Eve with the anticipation of the arrival of Santa.

For information on any of these programs, call Youth Services at 328-2860 or 328-2332.

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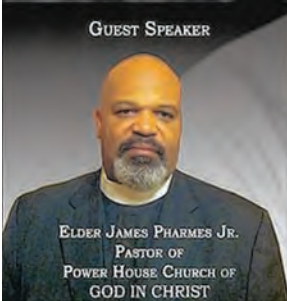
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Breakfast
January 17, 2013
7:00 a.m. - 8:30 a.m.
Cactus Café Bldg 451

Tickets: \$10
EEO: 328-2736
Margaret Curry: x6656
Lonza Henderson: x6899

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