

# THE OUTPOST

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

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## Troy Guerra named Civilian of the Year for Yuma Proving Ground

By Yolie Canales

To be recognized for exceptional work performance is always a positive motivator. It not only enhances your attitude at work but also lets you know that someone is looking out for you and appreciates your work. However, there are

people who take kudos of this type with great humility and do not forget to thank those who helped them get to this level. Troy Guerra is such a person.

Guerra, Yuma Proving Ground's Civilian of the Year, was recognized for his exemplary work performance as a team lead for the Combat and Automotive System Division, Yuma Test Center, at the 2012 Winter Formal Ball by Maj. Gen. Genaro Dellarocco, commander for the Army Test and Evaluation Command.

An electrical engineer and special projects team lead, he was quite honored to have been chosen among his peers for this coveted recognition. Guerra did say, however, that the recognition could not have been possible if it hadn't been for the people that surround him. "It's an honor to have been selected, but this is the reflection of the people who have surrounded and supported me throughout

my tenure at YPG," he said humbly. "These people are the reasons why I received this award. I know what the certificates say, and I agree with it to a point, however, these individuals are the ones who have guided me throughout my career. My leaders specifically," said Guerra.

In addition to the Civilian of the Year award, Guerra was also selected as Yuma Test Center and Yuma Proving Ground Civilian of the 4th Quarter. He was selected for the high visibility programs he was supporting in the testing arena, to include the rapid initiatives and fielding requirements of the programs, as well as follow-up on events occurring at other locations that could not occur without the testing programs on which he worked. He was also recognized for integrating specialized technologies onto existing platforms that needed to be safety certified

before testing could occur elsewhere.

As team lead, Guerra manages a group of eight test officers. Currently, they are working on nine test programs with seven additional to start within this fiscal year. Guerra said that the biggest challenges encountered in operating testing programs are tight timelines from customers and various other scheduling requirements. "There are many different challenges on a daily basis, but through communication and proper coordination, and team work with other offices, it's easy to overcome them by simple teamwork and communication," he said. "Team work is a requirement for most of our testing and we've got great individuals working together to the get the job done safely and timely."

Guerra, a more than five year employee, hails from El

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### Top YPG Soldiers recognized

Maj. Gen. Genaro Dellarocco, ATEC commander, recognized Yuma Proving Ground's Non-commissioned Officer of the Year, Staff Sgt. Maikeld Quarles (left), of the Airborne Test Force, and Soldier of the Year, Spec. Steven Jones of the YPG Health Clinic. Dellarocco presented both Soldiers the Army Commendation Medal during the ball. Quarles, who has been in the Army for 13 years, is the NCOIC of the YPG Color Guard and has been a volunteer in the community since his arrival at YPG four years ago. Jones, a health care specialist, joined the Army in July 2008, and served on a deployment in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom and Operation New Dawn. Both reside on Post.

PHOTO BY MARK SCHAUER



Maj. Gen. Genaro Dellarocco, ATEC commander, presents YPG's Civilian of the Year Troy Guerra with the highly coveted Achievement Medal for Civilian Service.

PHOTO BY MARK SCHAUER

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Viewpoint:  
Which Actor Could  
Best Portray you?  
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# Tropic extreme puts MRAP through its paces



A Cougar Mine Resistant Ambush Protected (MRAP) vehicle travels down the 19-mile Afobaka test course during its recent test in Suriname. During the dry season, portions of the jungle course were subject to dusty conditions, a facet of extreme tropical conditions that could never be accurately reproduced in a conditioning chamber. YPG has put MRAP vehicles through their paces at all three extreme weather test centers it has jurisdiction over.

PHOTOS BY MARK SCHAUER

By Mark Schauer

**Editor's Notes: This is the final of a two part series.**

As TRTC personnel typically based in Panama spent several days in Yuma in June training on data collection techniques specific to MRAP testing, the carpentry shop was at work rapidly installing wooden cabinets and drawers into a common Conex container. When it was completed, mechanics outfitted this portable tool room with all the items a mechanic needs to work on heavy vehicles. The drawers and cabinet doors were strapped shut, and the trailer was shipped to Suriname along with the test vehicles and other gear.

"Nothing fell," marveled Richard Shadle, heavy equipment mechanic. "Everything was exactly in place when it arrived. They did a heck of a job, and it was completed in one day."

The three MRAPs and most of the crew's gear was sent by ship from Texas, down the Gulf of Mexico, and through the Caribbean before sailing up the Suriname River to the capital city of Paramaribo. The river there is broad, but shallow, and the heavy ship needed to be unloaded within 10 hours of arrival or risk going aground. Thus when it docked at 3 a.m. on a Sunday morning, TRTC personnel scrambled to send drivers to unload the vehicles, stage them on the pier, and remove the remainder of the crew's gear packed in storage containers.

Once customs officials inspected the items, TRTC personnel transported them to a secure warehouse on the outskirts of the city. As soon as the test site was ready for business, TRTC-Suriname logistician Achmad Amatsahlan arranged for a police escort to accompany the convoy transferring all of the

equipment, and low boy trailers were rented from local contractors to transport the three vehicles.

"One of the low boys was very old and the distance from the lowest point to the road was about one foot," said Mora. "We had to go extremely slowly over speed bumps on the highway. It was an interesting, but safe trip."

The crew also had to contend with an unexpected storm that hit at the conclusion of the journey.

"Everyone was soaked," recalled Barton. "We couldn't move. We had to stay with the vehicles."

## Test

Durability testers do their best to push a test item to its limits. As such, each of the MRAP variants under test was driven across the rugged jungle test courses at its maximum payload capacity, achieved through placing test dummies and multi-ton plates and weights inside the vehicle. By agreement amongst themselves, the three test vehicle operators spend a week driving each MRAP variant under test, and cycle through every three weeks. However, each vehicle had a dedicated data collector for the duration of the test.

"You have to know the vehicle," said Mora. "It's a good idea for a data collector to stay with the same one."

While the test is in progress, the data collector records the time and mile marker any fault occurs at, along with any comments the driver has describing the incident. Upon return to base, the data collector also obtains meteorological data like temperature and humidity from the minute the incident occurred. If the vehicle is put out of a commission and a replacement part isn't at hand, mechanics attempt to buy one over the counter at a heavy equipment dealership in Paramaribo prior to having one shipped from the United States.

Though the test course is on leased property in a rural area, a logging firm is foresting part of the land, which means large logging trucks and other support vehicles are occasionally present when testing is in progress. For safety, test engineer Rolando Ayala rides in a pickup truck serving as escort to the test vehicles. From at least a quarter of a mile in front of the convoy, Ayala radios the other drivers whenever a non-participating vehicle or person is on the track, giving them the specific mile marker and direction at which he sees them. Additionally, medic and security officer Eric Nicolaisen follows the convoy in a trailing pickup truck loaded with a well-stocked first responder's aid kit in case of an accident.

"This course isn't that bad," said Jay Bomhower, driver. "We're encountering a lot of dust because it is the dry season, but we get that in Yuma, too."

The several months of test spanned both the dry and rainy seasons, and in the latter the crew had to deal

see **MRAP** page 3



Thanks to months of preparation, the Afobaka test site was equipped with all the technology necessary to successfully conduct a vehicle durability test. Here, test data is entered as heavy mechanic Richard Shadle (center) and engineer Jonathan Gonzalez look on.



# MRAP

FROM PAGE 2

with steep, muddy portions of the test track that were at times virtually impassable. Subjecting the vehicles to these types of conditions provided valuable insights into the vehicles' capabilities that could never be generated in a conditioning chamber.

## Conclusion

Through the challenges, the test was accomplished thanks to the professionalism and dedication of the personnel who participated.

"The team we put together adapted very well," said Zambrano. "We knew what needed to be done. I thank everyone at YPG for their support."

With two vehicle tests under their

belts and a sterling relationship with the American embassy and Surinamese government, TRTC personnel are bullish about their ability to successfully and economically conduct future tropical testing in Suriname for a variety of systems, from vehicles to artillery pieces. Suriname would be particularly suitable for the testing of

unmanned aerial systems (UAS).

"Suriname has very little air traffic and the corridor is well-defined," said Ernest Hugh, TRTC director. "With the proper permissions, we could definitely do UAS testing in Suriname. UAS are perfect for jungle surveillance with the right sensors, which need to be tested in the natural environment."

# A message from your Chaplain

Submitted by Chaplain (Maj.) Loren Hutsell

Hi, I'm your new chaplain. I recently arrived from the U.S. Army Chaplain School at Fort Jackson, S.C., where I was taking courses for the last six months. I am excited to be joining the Yuma Proving Ground Garrison team and anticipate meeting you.

To share a little about my background, I was born in Paraguay, South America, where my parents were missionaries. We later moved to Honduras, and I spent many years in Ecuador. Stateside, home was Roswell, N.M. (take me to your leader), and is now Washington State as my wife, Heather, is from Poughkeepsie, Wash. Heather and I have been married for 22 years and all of our children are of the four-legged variety.

Your chaplain ministry team consists of Staff Sgt. Greg Mathis, Spec. Richard Robertson and myself. My staff and I are here to assist you in facing the various challenges of your life, connect you with valuable support agencies and offer pastoral and spiritual care. We are also committed to connecting you with the religious support you seek and can provide times and locations for various faith group services on post. Further, I can offer you marriage counseling, personal counseling and

spiritual guidance in an absolute confidential setting. The chaplain office is located at 301 C. Street, Bldg. 1100. Contact numbers are 328-3465 (office) and 920-9771 (cell).

**Editor's Note: On a biweekly basis, the chaplain will be submitting articles of inspiration for your reading. The article below is the first of many to come.**

**Someone who inspires me**

Mother Teresa was born in Macedonia in 1910. At age, 18, she joined a convent and soon moved to Calcutta, India, to teach high school. After teaching for 20 years, she left the school to work among the poorest in Calcutta's slums. Although she had no money and began the work alone, volunteers soon began to join her. They built a children's home, gave care to those suffering with leprosy, and gave dignity to the homeless, who were dying on the streets.

Mother Teresa experienced many days of struggle and hardship during her years of ministry in Calcutta. One source of encouragement she relied upon to help her through the hard times was an inspirational message, written by Kent Keith, which she posted in the children's home. I will share this message with

see **CHAPLAIN** page 5

## CIVILIAN

FROM PAGE 1

Paso, Texas. He was initially greeted five years ago by Doug Goodman from TRAX (then, ECIII) at a job fair in El Paso, when he inquired about the work at YPG. "The first thing he said to me was, 'it's in the

high 115 degrees, where we work.' I replied that it sounds like fun, and the rest is history," said Guerra with a smile. "It's been the best job and I have had no regrets. The quality of work we do here, and the mission we perform, is important to the success and safety of our war fighters, which is extremely important to the defense of our country."

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# YPG preserves past, looks to future



Bill Heidner (right), Yuma Proving Ground's Heritage Center director, addresses attendees on the value of preserving, presenting and interpreting history during the dedication of the YPG exhibit in the former office of the depot quartermaster at the Yuma Quartermaster Depot.

PHOTOS BY MARK SCHAUER

**By Mark Schauer**

With a history in Yuma dating back to 1847, the U.S. Army has played an integral role in making the area what it is today. After several years of planning, the Army has

returned to the Yuma Quartermaster Depot with an exhibit assembled by YPG Heritage Center director Bill Heidner.

"It's great to be back," said Heidner. "The value of preserving,

presenting, and interpreting history is difficult to quantify, but if you look at any study of business leaders looking to relocate their company, culture, heritage and the arts are consistently in the top five of what they are looking for in a community. There aren't many communities that do these as well as Yuma, and we're proud to be a part of it."

Located in the original 1875 office of the depot quartermaster, the exhibit includes mannequins dressed in representative Army uniforms accompanied by rich interpretive photo displays of YPG tests of some of the 20th century's most iconic military equipment. The display, meant to be a small supplement to the large collection at YPG's Heritage Center museum, was dedicated in a ceremony attended by about 40 people on February 6.

"This is a phenomenally important aspect of the military and the community," said Col. Reed Young, YPG commander, at the ceremony. "I find it personally fascinating because, as the saying goes, 'those who cannot remember the past are condemned to repeat it.'"

"I think it balances the historic adobe building," added Tina Clark, historian for the Yuma Crossing Heritage Area, which manages the Quartermaster Depot. "One side has history, and now the other has the modern Army that is so vital to our way of life."

That the exhibit was completed was particularly gratifying given the Quartermaster Depot's near-death from state budget cuts in 2009. The park was saved by partnerships with

see **PRESERVE** page 10

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After handing over the time capsule filled with items of Yuma Proving Ground's past and present to Robert Pickels, Yuma County administrator, Col. Reed Young, YPG commander, shares his thoughts on the great example of two government agencies "partnering together."

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# Visiting veterans' facilities a priority for ATEC commander



Maj. Gen. Genaro Dellarocco, thanks Sally Petty, retired Air Force Colonel, and chief of the community clinic at the Tucson Veteran's Center, for her briefing, as Col. Reed Young, YPG commander listens.

PHOTO BY YOLIE CANALES

By Yolie Canales

Army Test and Evaluation Command (ATEC) Commander Maj. Gen. Genaro Dellarocco made a two-day visit to Yuma Proving Ground earlier this month to not only attend, but also provide the keynote address at the YPG Winter Formal. While in the local area, he made it a priority

to visit Yuma's two veterans care facilities and exchange greetings with patients and staff.

"We want veterans undergoing medical treatment to know that we have not abandoned them, that they're still part of our team and part of our family," said Dellarocco. "They served their country, raised

## CHAPLAIN

FROM PAGE 3

you. Like Mother Teresa, we are called to live a life of service. Everyday we work together to preserve the freedoms of our country. May this message encourage us, sustain our vision, and challenge our choices as we live this life of service at Yuma Proving Ground.

People are often unreasonable, illogical, and self-centered;

... Forgive them anyway.

If you are kind, people may accuse you of selfish, ulterior motives;

... Be kind anyway.

If you are successful, you will win some false friends and some true enemies;

... Succeed anyway.

their hand and we are here to support them, and will continue to do so."

He said medical care for returning veterans is important to the military and always will be. It's part of taking care of our people, he said. "We've

If you are honest and frank, people may cheat you;

... Be honest and frank anyway.

What you spend years building, someone could destroy overnight;

... Build anyway.

If you find serenity and happiness, others may be jealous;

... Be happy anyway.

The good you do today, people will often forget tomorrow;

... Do good anyway.

Give the world the best you have, and it may never be enough;

... Give the world the best you have anyway.

You see, in the final analysis, it is between you and God; It was never between you and others anyway. Written by Kent Keith (1968).

been at war so long and have learned so much more during this last decade about what our troops need. This goes from sophisticated technology

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# Military, civilian personnel enjoy a



(Top Left) The final and most solemn toast is always to fallen comrades. This tribute is marked with an empty table and tablecloth, inverted glass, blank dog tags, and a symbol representing tears (salt or lemon).

(Center Left) Dominic Antonelli sings 'God Bless the USA' as members of the workforce, prepare to toast the nation's Armed Forces. Representing one of its members is Staff Sgt. Aaron Engelman and his wife, Jackie.

(Bottom Left) Members of the Yuma Proving Ground Color Guard, post the colors at the second annual Winter Formal Ball held at the Arizona Western College 3C building. Over 240 YPG personnel, both military and civilian, local dignitaries and guests, attended this gala event.

(Bottom Right) The tables were decorated in festive colors and arrangements. YPG Soldiers their spouses and guests mingled with each other while having a fun time.

(Top Right) The dance floor was packed with happy couples dancing to the music by DJ Steve Moreno, who played hip-hop, country, slow dancing, salsa, merengue and most popular among the dancers the "Electric Slide." Those in attendance, expressed that this was the "best" ball of the three that have been sponsored by Yuma Proving Ground. Beginning with the music to the food, to the guest speaker, and the emcee's, right down to the scavenger hunt game! Some very exciting ideas and recommendations have been made for next year's ball and the committee will take them into consideration.





# fun time at 2012 Winter Formal Ball



(Top) Formal toasts dedicated to the nation's president and others are a respected component of every military ball.

(Center Left) Participating in the 'scavenger hunt,' Brian Young and Spec. Fadi Tami, walk away quite happy with one of the prizes which were donated by numerous YPG and local Yuma vendors.



(Center Right) Capt. Nickolas Pacella (right) YPG Health Clinic administrator, congratulates Sgt. Jerome Roby for being inducted into the Order of St. Martin. Looking on (left to right) are Col. Reed Young, YPG commander, Command Sgt. Maj. Carl Fritzsching of U.S. Army Test and Evaluation Command, and Lt. Col. Chad Harris, Yuma Test Center commander.

(Bottom) Attendees pause in silence for the invocation provided by Yuma Proving Ground's Chaplain (Maj.) Loren Hutsell.

PHOTOS BY MARK SCHAUER





# VIEWPOINTS

Shakespeare said, "all the world's a stage and all the men and women merely players."  
For this Viewpoint, we asked, "What actor would play you in a movie about your life?"



## Jimmy Myers

Test Officer

I'd have to say Jim Carrey. He has a nice wide range of movies, mostly in the comedy genre. I'm not the funniest guy, but like Jim. I like to approach life with a smile on my face and an easy-going attitude. In *Ace Ventura: Pet Detective* he's a guy who is friendly to creatures and opposed to evil-doers, which I liked.



## Spec. Fadi Tami

Health Medical Specialist

I could see Matthew McConaughey playing me, but I think Neil Patrick Harris from the TV show *How I Met Your Mother* would be good, too. He's really funny.

## Adam Rinne

Test Officer

I've been told I have a striking resemblance to Ryan Gossling, so it would definitely be him. He would have to dye his hair, but from the neck down we look pretty much identical. He's been great in all his movies, but especially in *The Notebook*.



## Sarah Kennedy

Administrative Assistant

Meryl Streep. She is so versatile and I think she could pull off playing a common person like me. I think she could capture my sense of humor, too. She is a great actress.



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### Holly King

Administrative Support Assistant  
Betty White. She's so funny! I think she is phenomenal. If she wore a blonde wig and was filmed in soft focus, it could work. If Betty wasn't available, maybe Sandra Bullock or Julia Roberts.

### Don Kist Fire Chief



When I pick her up from school, my daughter, Leah, says her friends say I look like Kevin James, the guy from 'King of Queens.' I think he's alright, but I don't see the resemblance and I wouldn't want him to play me in the movie.

## ATEC

FROM PAGE 5

to the many different ways of treating medical problems."

After touring the Avenue 3E counseling center and the outpatient clinic on Gila Ridge Road and learning the types of services and treatment veterans are receiving, Dellarocco was quite impressed. "This is the best it's ever been in its history," he said. "I believe that with today's advanced technology; our awareness and understanding of all sorts of injuries; and the many services provided, we are more in tune with veterans today than we have ever been."

Dellarocco had the opportunity to visit the new mobile veteran's counseling center, a 38-foot motor coach equipped with spaces for confidential counseling that travels to remote locations. "This is something I've never seen before," he enthused. "It's absolutely outstanding and the right thing to do."

When asked about future budget reductions that could affect installations within ATEC, Dellarocco was happy to share his views. "The nation is aware that we must take austerity measures, starting at the congressional level all the way through the federal government - we will all go through it. But, at the end of the day, YPG will still be here. We'll still have a mission, but perhaps a smaller overall organization, since many customers will have reduced test budgets to execute."

He emphasized the consequence of YPG's workload and believes it is "tremendously important" to our nation. "A great variety of items get sent here for testing and some explore the very limits of the performance envelope," he said. "This is data we need to know and Yuma is one of the best places to do it. YPG testing has consistently provided terrific results to make systems better for our troops."

# Bill Alexander Flightline Mazda



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# Safety Corner

## Prevent the largest vehicle accident cause

As we look at the Army's Motor Vehicle (AMV) accident readiness posture for the proving ground, it is crystal clear that the majority of accidents center around something the employee has total control over mitigating. Those events happen to be backing-up accidents. This is why it's so important that everyone must be aware of their surroundings and the possible hazards. One of the ways, is what we have been practicing here on the proving ground called 360 Degrees of Safety.

For FY11, Yuma Proving Ground experienced 15 AMV backing-up accidents, costing the government and taxpayer \$16,113.01. So far this fiscal year, the command has a total of three accidents of this nature, costing the government and taxpayer \$5,523.02.

One out of every four accidents can be blamed on poor backing-up techniques, according to the National Safety Council (NSC). Our record shows that poor backing-up can result in costly damages to equipment and buildings, in addition, causing serious injury and death. Backing-up accidents are preventable if the vehicle operator is properly trained and prudent.

Operators should avoid backing-up whenever possible, or pick spots that reduce backing to a minimum. This is a knack that can be learned.

When you must back-up as a last resort, the following tips will help you avoid collisions:

- First and foremost, conduct a visual walk-around of the vehicle to check for maneuvering room or pedestrians (360 Degrees of Safety).
  - Continuously check all mirrors while backing-up.
  - Always back-up slowly while continuously looking and listening for signs of trouble.
  - Try to position the vehicle to avoid backing-up.
  - Whenever available, use a passenger to guide you during backing-up operations
- One of the major points we need to remember is all backing-up accidents are preventable. The following key failures can cause collisions during backing-up operations:
- Failure to look before backing-up.
  - Failure to check blind spots.
  - Failure to conduct a walk-around.
  - Backing-up at an unsafe speed.
  - Failure to check mirrors often for potential hazards.

Leaders and employees (government and contractors) must be engaged and steadfast to help reduce such occurrences. Remember: **MISSION FIRST, PEOPLE ALWAYS.**

The YPG Safety Office has a resource of safety videos and materials. Please stop by and check them out. Nobody Gets Hurt!

# PRESERVE

FROM PAGE 4

the City of Yuma and other area organizations.

"In the modern era, the only way these parks can survive and thrive is through partnerships," said Charles

Flynn, Yuma Crossing Heritage Area executive director. "I'm grateful for YPG's commitment to this great new exhibit."

Later that same week, YPG put representative items of its present day see **PRESERVE** page 11



## Catholic Mission Renewal Week YPG Installation Chapel

**When:** 19-22 February

Sunday: 0930

Monday: 1730

Tuesday: 1730

Ash Wednesday: 1130 and 1730

**Guest Priest:**

FR. James Disney Thompson, O.P.

### Points of Contact:

CH (MAJ) Loren Hutsell  
SSG Greg Mathis  
SPC Richard Robertson

928-328-3465  
928-328-2578



## PRESERVE

FROM PAGE 10

activities in a time capsule assembled by Yuma County to celebrate the Arizona state centennial. The capsule, consisting of 15 individual aluminum canisters filled by the municipal governments and major public institutions of Yuma County, was buried in a cement chamber at the new Centennial Heritage Area adjacent to the Yuma County Main Library and topped by a bronze plaque. The capsule is meant to be raised as part of the state's bicentennial celebrations in the year 2112.

"This is another great example of two great entities, YPG and Yuma County, partnering together," said Young. "It will be interesting what the YPG personnel of that time think of the contents—I can only imagine how far technology will have

advanced. Hopefully our testing 100 years from now will be exclusively of technologies that take service members out of harm's way."

The YPG time capsule includes photos of present-day YPG range activities, 35mm photo slides of World War II-era training, a commander's coin, brochures, news releases and several recent issues of the Outpost. There is also a manuscript concerning YPG's 70 year history. All of the items were printed on acid-free paper and placed in mylar sleeves in an effort to repel the ravages of time. Interior pages of the newspapers and manuscript were also protected with mylar sheets. Finally, the interior of the capsule was lined with Tyvek, a substance that repels moisture while simultaneously allowing air circulation.

"We're going to cross our fingers and hope it survives," said Young. "With all the precautions we've taken, I think it has a good chance.

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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.

## Aiello Eye Institute

Dr. Aiello organized the Aiello Eye Institute in Yuma in order to provide world-class eye care to the community. With a highly trained staff and associates utilizing only the latest technology and equipment, the Aiello Eye Institute provides the areas most comprehensive and patient-centered vision healthcare.



**[www.yumaeyedoctor.com](http://www.yumaeyedoctor.com)**

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