

THE OUTPOST

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

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Simmons earns highest annual SES award



For the second time in his career, Brian M. Simmons, executive technical director for the U.S. Army Test and Evaluation Command, received a presidential rank award, this time for Distinguished Executive Rank. Previously, Simmons received the Meritorious Executive award in 2007.

Undersecretary of the Army Joseph Westphal presented the award to Simmons in a ceremony at the Pentagon in June. Eleven other senior level civilians also received presidential rank awards.

Simmons led the redesign of ATEC, which began with his Army leadership role

Brian M. Simmons, ATEC executive technical director.

within Base Realignment and Closure 2005 that moved ATEC to Aberdeen Proving Ground, Md.

The move internally consolidated three headquarters into one, reducing 131 overhire personnel and saving more than \$11 million annually beginning FY2011. He led the business and technical re-engineering efforts within ATEC to take on enterprise processes to streamline the amount and quality of all Army testing; integrating command expertise, instrumentation, resources, contracts, and even test site locations to minimize test cost and duration while increasing technical quality

of test results and system evaluations.

During this time, Simmons was dual-hatted in two key SES positions as the ATEC executive technical director and the Army Evaluation Center director.

Presidential Rank Awards, which are granted by the U. S. government, recognize Senior Executive Service and Senior Career Employees who characterize strong leadership, achieve results, and consistently demonstrate strength, integrity, industry, and a commitment to excellence in public service. The distinguished Executive award is the highest annual award for career SES members.

Local youth shadow YPG workers

By Lucy Rivera

Many high school students are at the stage where it is time to think about college and potential career paths. In order to figure out what is right for you, it is important to explore different career paths. The best way to explore is to get up close and personal and job shadow a professional of your career

interest.

Late last month, two students Chirag and Jay Patal from Yuma High School's Upward Bound Program had the opportunity to shadow employees at Yuma Proving Ground for the day where they were exposed to the different areas of test engineering.

see **SHADOW** page 2



David Estrada , electronic systems technician (right), gives the students the unique opportunity of handling a 50 caliber sniper rifle.

PHOTO BY LUCY RIVERA

AUGUST IS:
AT AWARENESS
MONTH

X-ray tech used to
seek out
tire damage
Page 7



It's **HOT** outside,
Stay
Hydrated!

SHADOW

FROM COVER



Chirag Patal (center) observes as Luis Manos (right), Charles Lott (back to camera) and Rick Guyette, prepare to do a live fire check of the .50 caliber three-barrel ballistic firing device that will be used for insensitive munitions bullet impact testing. PHOTOS BY LUCY RIVERA

The students were given a brief overview of hardware Yuma Proving Ground uses in its everyday mission. Both students are interested in software and mechanical engineering. “As young adults, they have a wide range of engineering opportunities to pick from,” said Steve Patane, team lead for Mines, Countermine, and Demolition. “I think they are just touching the tip of the iceberg of what is out there for them.”

Before they started their day of shadowing, the students watched a range safety video and were assigned mentors who would introduce them to their work fields. “We want to show them that the military is more than just active duty personnel. There is a big civilian workforce that supports the military,” said Patane. “We test and assess the tools for our Warfighters.”

A few things the students had



Terry Nichols (left) explains the proper method of shouldering a rifle and using the weapon’s sights. Both Upward Bound students were fascinated by the details of YPG’s work.

the opportunity to see were the testing of a .50 caliber three-barrel ballistic firing device, environmental simulation facilities, a light armored vehicle, a Bradley Fighting Vehicle, and an Abrams tank, which they had the opportunity to ride on. “It was awesome,” said Jay Patal, a senior at Yuma High School interested in mechanical engineering after riding on the Abrams tank. “It was really hot though. My favorite was the light armored vehicle.”

The Upward Bound Program is a federally funded program that helps students explore careers, graduate from high school, and continue on to college. Doug Thompson, a Combat Systems test officer and mentor for the day, advised the students to do what makes them happy wherever they end up, be it going to college or joining the military. “If you can find a job you like, then it is really not a job,” said Thompson.

Customer Service Roll Call

ICE Comments, 3rd Quarter FY12



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>

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Brown, Victor
Brozek, Scott
Campbell, Deborah
Carson, John
Castaneda, Mike
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Dayton, Rosa
Ebers, Kymberly

Eldridge, Mike
Ellis, Marc
Gillis, Linda
Gordon, Joyce
Greek, Ron
Hallahan, Bob
Harris, Joseph
Kleiman, Duane
Langel, Jon
LaRose, Rhonda

Lauzon, Carolyn
Lee, Chris
Nabozny, Patty
Overstreet, Raquel
Perkins, Amanda
Pollard, Matt
Poulton, Charlie
Van Why, Ron
Walk, James
White, Robert
York, Kelly

*** Winner of 3rd Quarter Outstanding Customer Service***



Steve Patane, lead for the Mine/Countermine and Demolition Team, explains instrumentation used for testing the deployment of scatterable munitions to student Chirag Patal.

What a 'cool' way to spend a hot summer day on YPG



YPG children and adults cool off on a hot afternoon at the Kahuna Lagoon Swimming Pool.

PHOTO BY LUCY RIVERA

By Lucy Rivera

Summer has arrived in the Yuma desert, and it is hot! With Yuma's scorching temperatures, it is important to stay cool and hydrated. For many of the Yuma Proving Ground children and parents, there is no better way to escape the heat than cooling down at the Kahuna Lagoon Swimming Pool, offering a 75-foot sliding tube and a diving board that will launch you into the crystal clear waters of the 25-meter L-shaped pool.

In addition, the pool facility offers a water spray ground and a playground for children who don't want to swim. For those who don't want to get wet, a poolside patio is available, along with cabanas for a more private gathering.

Steve Ward, aquatics director for YPG's Family, Morale and Recreation Directorate, said that "Not only is the pool used for fun, but also it is used by military personnel for water survival training and certification that can come in great use in an emergency when deployed."

For those who don't know how to swim or are afraid to get in the water, swimming lessons are offered for all ages. The classes are held from 9 a.m. to 10:45 a.m. Monday through Friday. The cost for the classes start at \$29 for a two-week session taught by a

water safety instructor who is certified by the American Red Cross. More advanced private lessons are also offered to both children and adults for a cost of \$40 for half an hour session five times a week. For information on these classes, call Steve Ward at 328-2400.

The installation swimming pool is only for authorized personnel which includes civilians that live and work at YPG and active duty Soldiers and families. Any child under the age of 12 must be escorted by a parent or guardian. There is no cost for pool access though the pool does offer private parties during or after hours for a fee of \$65 for two hours.

The swimming pool has been around since the 1950s, however, it did not get its current name, Kahuna Lagoon, until the facility was remodeled a few years ago. "We wanted to get out of the institutional look of the pool and soften it to become a more resort style pool," said Ward. "That's when we decided to name it Kahuna Lagoon."

The Kahuna Lagoon Pool is open from the end of April until late September. Its hour of operation are Monday, Wednesday, and Thursday from 11:30 am to 7 p.m., Tuesdays from 3:30 pm to 7 p.m., and on weekends and holidays from 10:30 a.m. to 6:30 p.m.

Submit a name, win a prize

Everyone is being offered the opportunity to put a personal mark on Yuma Proving Ground history!

The YPG Commander and Garrison Manager are sponsoring a "Name the Cantonment Area" contest in search for names for the proving ground cantonment areas currently referred to simply as MAA and YT. Additionally, a separate name for the MAA gate is also being looked for. The contest is being held for the period July 23 through August 6 NLT 5 p.m.

While Kofa Firing Range and Laguna Army Airfield are distinct names that people associate with individually defined areas, many find the alphabet soup of acronyms used for the other two cantonment areas confusing. Many other military

installations contain areas that have distinct names such as Sand Hill and Harmony Church at Fort Benning, Smoke Bomb Hill at Fort Bragg and Custer Hill at Fort Riley.

The contest is open to all Soldiers, government civilians, family members, and military retirees. Submissions will be reviewed and winners chosen by a local panel. Prizes will be awarded for winning submissions.

In the event of two individuals submitting the same winning name, the first submission received as determined by date and time will be deemed winner. For this reason, all submissions must be sent by e-mail with the subject "Name the Cantonment Area."

Submissions are to be sent to the following e-mail address:

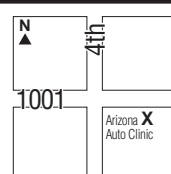
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VIEWPOINTS

Most everyone has some form of retirement plan once they reach that age. For this Viewpoint, members of the YPG workforce were asked: What are your plans once you reach retirement?



Derek Harhart
Lead Cook

I plan on relaxing; spending time with my family, travel a little bit to places like San Diego and Phoenix and do lots of fishing. My wife and I want to take a cruise to Hawaii. We already have been to Florida a couple of times, but we would love to take a cruise to Hawaii to see the beaches there.



Carol Moore
Miratek

I retired from YPG but came back to work because I missed the people I worked with. Really, I did. My entertainment revolves around my friends out here. I was bored at home, so I came back.

Oscar Cabrera
Engineering Technician

Once I reach retirement age, I plan on becoming a college physics professor. I would love to teach physics because it was the hardest and most interesting course that I have taken. I would provide myself with the opportunity to expand my knowledge by teaching others.



James Cowan
TRAX

After retirement, I want to get a house in the woods in the middle of nowhere. I love wildlife and I love the mountains. I would like to go hunting, sit by the fire at night, watch movies, sleep and, especially, relax.



Allen Martin
Custodian

I am planning on going to Florida once I retire. I want to learn how to golf by then, spend time with the family and just kick back and relax. Hopefully, I will have grandchildren by then so I can enjoy having them around. Florida is the perfect place to be once you reach retirement age.



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Chaplain's Corner

The New Vow



By Maj. Loren Hutsell, Post Chaplain

In the third century, a lifestyle known as the monastic movement emerged. Thousands of people who wanted to dedicate their

lives to prayer, self-sacrifice, and service to others, began to gather in communities called monasteries. They formed these communities throughout Europe and Northern Africa. Common to all was the taking of three main vows - poverty, chastity, and obedience. For 300 years, those who served in monasteries greatly impacted life, worship, and the culture of their day and age.

By the sixth century, much of the monastic movement had fallen into disarray, was segregated, and poorly organized. Many monks were moving from monastery to monastery to follow the latest great leader or teaching and consequently neglected their own communities. A monk called St. Benedict, took on

the situation and brought reform. He brought reform by adding a fourth vow to the original three, known as the "vow of stability." The vow of stability stipulated that monks return to concentrating on the basic principles of being a monk, which was dedication to God and self-less service to the community. Monks were to return to a focus of prayer and spirituality in their daily living. Monks were to be proficient at the basics of a monastic lifestyle and calling. In addition, all monks were to stay put at their location or community, instead of always searching for the next "happening" place to be. Because of St. Benedict's reforms, the monastic communities once again had tremendous influence for good on the populace they served.

What we learn from this story is the importance of being grounded. If you find yourself feeling out of control, out of balance, or not living life the way you should, consider then a vow or a focus of stability. It's a focus on disciplined changes in your life. Spiritually, it means to daily pray and read the scriptures, as well as, be part of a community of faith. Physically it means to get enough rest, sleep, and to live a healthy lifestyle. Relationally it means to find ways to help others, keep or create healthy boundaries, give priority to your family, and walk a path of grace and forgiveness when we have been hurt. Paying attention to the basics of a spiritual, balanced, and healthy relational living is a central way to experience stability in our lives.

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Veteran visits World War II YPG training site after many decades

By Chuck Wullenjohn

Camp Laguna, an important part of World War II's Desert Training Center, was once the temporary home of tens of thousands of American Soldiers. Living in primitive conditions in the midst of the harsh Arizona desert in what is now Yuma Proving Ground, Camp Laguna's Soldiers resided in canvas tents and trudged many miles in forced marches under the hot sun. The purpose of the challenging training was to prepare them for a rigorous life of combat in the deserts of North Africa or one of the war's other combat fronts.

Typically arriving in Yuma aboard special passenger trains operated by the Southern Pacific Railroad, the mostly-drafted Soldiers were loaded aboard trucks for the bumpy 25 mile drive to the desert camp. Many were experiencing the rigors of the desert for the first time.

Howard Hardrath was one of these men. A platoon sergeant in Company C, 313th Infantry



War veteran Howard Hardrath provided this photograph after his visit, which he personally took at Camp Laguna in 1943. He said everyone pictured in this photo was killed, wounded or became ill in the months after they were sent into combat.

Regiment, of the 79th Infantry Division, Hardrath was a young man in the prime of life. His unit was made up of a combination of draftees and volunteers that had recently conducted in maneuvers in Tennessee. He arrived July 14, 1943, and departed on December 5 of the same year.

"The officers showed unusual regard for us when we arrived," said Hardrath as he toured the World War II training area. "They barely let us out of our tents the first ten days. Their intention was to let us acclimatize to what was a new experience for nearly everyone."

After 10 days, the men were taken on an evening march through the desert.

According to Hardrath, the uniform-of-the-day was helmet

liners, boots and socks, and "G.I. shorts." "Even in the evening it was hot," he pointed out.

Later, the Soldiers began to wear full field gear and go on forced marches any time of the day or night. One time Hardrath's division was absent from Camp Laguna for a full month while taking part in maneuvers which took them dozens of miles north.

Hardrath particularly remembers the "water training" the men of his unit underwent. "For a long time, they tried to limit us to one quart of water per day," he said. "This was the equivalent of a single canteen-full and it wasn't enough. I can remember people keeling over and fainting due to the heat and lack of fluids."

Hardrath doesn't remember much about the town of

Yuma during those years, saying bus service between Camp Laguna and the town was non-existent and he was able to hitch a ride on an Army truck only twice.

"Yuma was a small town at that time," he said, "but I remember the Native Americans selling jewelry and crafts at the train station and the watering holes that filled the town. Those joints were popular among the Soldiers and we really guzzled the beer."

As for life at Camp Laguna, Hardrath says it was primitive and tough. "We lived in canvas tents the entire time,"

see **WWII** page 10



Troops trained in the Arizona desert were sent to combat areas throughout the world after their six month training rotation concluded, some to the Pacific and some to Europe.

Everyone lived in tents at Camp Laguna, from officers to enlisted Soldiers. The camp featured no electricity and no air conditioning. Howard Hardrath arrived for his six month training rotation in July 1943 - as summer temperatures were approaching their zenith.

X-ray technology used to peer inside vehicle tires, looking for damage

By Lucy Rivera

Certain things can't be seen with the naked eye. Looking only at the outside can often be problematical, as medical doctors diagnosing illnesses are all too aware. Likewise, visually inspecting a tire only offers a glimpse of its condition. Important defects inside the tire's structure can go undiscovered without the use of x-rays.

At Yuma Proving Ground, where a wide variety of weapon systems and munitions go through testing, the tire x-ray model 1027B inspection system, installed in 1992, is used to inspect the interior structure of test vehicle tires to view the condition of a variety of tire brands. Tire x-rays examine the internal components of a tire. These components include the steel belts, cords and beads that hold the tire together.

"You cannot see internal defects visually from the outside," said Norberto DeLeon, Metrology and Simulation engineer, who has been at YPG for 24 years. "These can only be detected using x-rays."

Test vehicle tires are typically x-rayed both before and after a test and compared with each other to help identify internal damage that may have occurred during a test. "Our system can accommodate any tire size ranging from a typical automotive tire up to the large tires used on military vehicles, weighing up to 500 lbs., 20 inches wide (sidewall to sidewall), and 59 inches in diameter," said DeLeon.

How the system works

Initially, a tire is loaded and the operator programs various details about the tire into the system. The system itself is fully automated after the tire is programmed and the inspection takes place within an enclosed lead-lined and shielded chamber.

The inspection process begins by measuring the outside diameter, width

and rim size diameter. The system then performs a safety check before the x-rays are turned on. Inside the chamber, the camera moves into the pre-programmed position to start the x-ray inspection process. A tire is scanned in 360-degree sections taking approximately 30 minutes to complete. Once the process is over, the x-rays are turned off and the tire is automatically ejected.

"Challenges are minimal after a tire has been programmed and operating in automatic mode," said DeLeon. "But when a problem does occur, a system fault usually stops the process. The challenge is in determining which sensor, among many, stopped the process. The operator must troubleshoot to identify a solution."

Training

To operate this system, training consists of three to four days hands-on operation and basic troubleshooting techniques conducted by a factory representative. There is also, however, an additional requirement. "Operating the system requires a certified radiographer level II or higher to be present during the operation," DeLeon said. "Currently, there are four radiographers at YPG that operate this system, one of which is Jason Magana, who is a certified level II radiographer and has been at YPG for seven years."

Benefits for YPG

This system offers YPG the capability to conduct radiographic inspection of tires and obtain still images and video of the complete inspection process. Combining the tire x-ray capability along with the capability of tire testing on vehicles all at YPG saves the customer time and money.



Jason Magana, a certified level II radiographer for the Metrology and Simulation Branch, controls the conveyor button that moves tires onto the tire x-ray machine where an inspection of the interior structure of each tire takes place.



Jason Magana sets a vehicle tire onto the conveyor belt to be examined by the x-ray inspection system.

PHOTOS BY LUCY RIVERA

Mesquite II at Mesa Del Sol



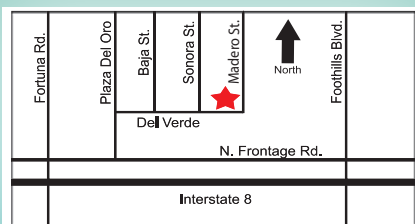
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TIRES
FROM PAGE 7


Norberto Deleon (right) Metrology and Simulation engineer and Jason Magana demonstrate one of the many sizes of tires the x-ray inspection system examines. The vehicle tires are examined from the inside and throughout.

Benefits to the Soldier

“The testing we conduct at YPG is ultimately for the purpose of serving Soldiers, the Army and the taxpayers,” said Deleon, “We test and evaluate for the purpose of helping to determine the product that will best serve the Soldier in the field.”

Inspection of tires with x-ray dates


back to the 1960s, when the technology was just starting out. Not until the 1970s did tire x-ray technology come into wide use. YPG’s tire x-ray facility has been in operation for 20 years. “Although the system is still operational, it is due for an upgrade since the x-ray camera is obsolete and replacement parts are not manufactured anymore,” said Deleon.



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- WHAT:** The 4th Annual “Feds Feed Families” food drive campaign is underway now through August 31, 2012.
- WHERE:** Donations are being collected at the Commissary, Bldg 536 of non-perishable food items. Individual items may be brought, purchased, or individual meals have already been packaged for under \$10
- WHO:** Distribution is for YPG civilian and military individuals and families, as well as local food banks.
- HOW:** The Post Chapel will dispense food items to needy families. If you are in need, or know of individuals/families who are in need, please come or direct others to the chapel. You may also pick-up items from the chapel to distribute to those who are in need. Please contact Chaplain Hutsell, SSG Mathis, or SPC Robertson for additional information : 928-328-3465.

Garrison employees recognized

Rick Martin garrison manager, held a civilian awards ceremony at the YPG Post Theater to recognize numerous garrison employees with Length of Service Awards; Department of the Army Civilian Service Medals; Certificates of Performance & Promotion; Outstanding Service Awards & Certificates of Appreciation; and numerous coin presentations.



Family, Morale & Welfare Recreation (FMWR) Employee of the Quarter went to Diana Mercer and the FMWR Facility of the Quarter went to Maria Spolski and staff. Not in this photo: 3rd Quarter ICE certificate went to Marc Ellis; Promotion: Victor Brown; Certificate of Performance: Regi Willoughby; Commander's Award for Civilian Service: Laura Howe; Certificate of Appreciation, Karla James; Commander's Coin: Robin Giamanco, Rebekka Juarez, Heidi McElroy, JC Peters, Herlinda Peters, Jose Rivera, Steve Sawyer, Maria Urquijo and Robert Verdugo.

In addition, James Einwaechter: 40 years of service; Joseph Coufal, 35 years of service; Alejandro Banda, 15 years of service and Dorothy Robinson, 25 years of service.



Achievement Medal for Civilian Service, Left to right: Howard Cart, Teresa Day, Tracy Meyers and Patty Stallings. Rick Martin (left) poses for a photo with the group of awardees.



Length of Service Award: Left to right: Richard Chavez, 10 years; Chad Nelson, 15 years; Lorra Green and Laura Merrill, 20 years and Joeann Bailey, 25 years of federal service.



Receiving Garrison Coins are left to right: Charles Beck, Alexander McNeely, David Naill, Nicole Guidry, Terry Talley, Chris Hatch, Vicki Martin, Ted Hudson, Victor Brown, Kelly York, John Carson and Miguel Guzman. Not available for photo: Clinton Stone and Kilipaki Harris.



Years of Service, left to right: George Fischbach and Tom Harris: 30 years; Charles Ruerup, 35 years; and Tony Rivera, 45 years. (Not available for photo was Mike Castaneda with 35 years).

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Next Outpost deadline is noon July 26th

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WWII

FROM PAGE 6

he said. "The only wooden structures I remember were the cook shacks, which were made of mesh screen and wood. We ate from mess kits and used the forks, knives and spoons the Army issued. We didn't eat off decent plates once."

Aside from the obstacles and inconveniences, Hardrath recalls many good things resulting from the experience. "This desert training didn't necessarily teach us all about combat, but it sure made us tough. Soldiers who couldn't take the punishment dropped out of the unit and were sent

someplace else. Those who made it were transformed from boys into men — men ready for active combat."

"To my knowledge, nearly everyone who went into the field with my company, aside from the support people, was hit by enemy fire," said Hardrath. "This included both officers and enlisted. Even I was hit in the leg after fighting the Germans in France for 31 days. I spent a year in the hospital after that."

Hardrath's experience at Camp Laguna was harsh and demanding, and it remains etched in his memory. A longtime resident of Atlanta, Ga, he well remembers his "sojourn in the desert" as a time when maturity blossomed and difficult obstacles were overcome.

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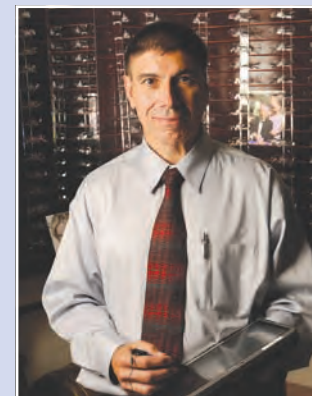
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