

THE OUTPOST

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

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Making canines into explosive detection experts

By Chuck Wullenjohn

Every dog owner knows his or her pet is capable of producing an annoying racket. Multiply that by a factor of forty, and that's the cacophonous barking hubbub a Yuma Proving Ground kennel housing dozens

Each year YPG prepares over 600 military working dogs and handlers for deployment overseas with training in a realistic environment. The proving ground has been recognized as a premier training center of these invaluable animals.

PHOTO BY MARK SCHAUER

of military working dogs produces each morning.

YPG has become an important hub for the training of teams of working dogs and Soldiers, with well over 600 canines visiting each year, as well as their handlers.

Courses range in length from one week to over a month, with dogs trained in searching for and identifying explosives, searching

for people and more.

Specialized facilities have been constructed to optimize the training, from modern, clean dog housing facilities to remote desert training locations, some of which feature groups of wood, cinder block and adobe buildings similar to those in combat areas overseas.

YPG canine training involves plenty of uphill and downhill

YPG has become an important hub for the training of teams of working dogs and Soldiers

see **CANINES** page 7

Public meeting describes cleanup issues

By Chuck Wullenjohn

As taxpayer-funded institutions, it is important that military installations provide as much information to the public as prudently possible. In this vein, Garrison Yuma's Environmental Sciences Directorate held a public meeting in January to

describe and discuss restoration and clean-up activities taking place at Yuma Proving Ground. Attended by about 20

see **CLEANUP** page 10

An engineer coordinating many clean-up activities at the proving ground uses Power Point to illustrate his presentation.

PHOTO BY CHUCK WULLENJOHN



From El Salvador to Iraq, YPG welcomes new Chaplain

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Viewpoints: Favorite childhood baseball player

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Safety Corner: Are you a good driver?

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Many counseling services available at YPG

by Mark Schauer

Tough times don't last, but tough people do.

This venerable piece of folk wisdom has sustained millions through trying times. Yet the rigors of leaner budgets and employees expected to do more work with fewer resources can be trying for even the most hardened professional, as can personal problems.

Though YPG'S relatively small size means there are no mental health clinicians available on post, there are a variety of free services available to folks who need someone to talk to about family problems, are struggling financially, or are stressed by increasing job demands.

One place to look for guidance is

the YPG chapel. While most think of it as a place for contemplation of spiritual and eternal matters, help is also offered for more earthly cares.

"I provide crisis intervention and marriage and family counseling," said Maj. Loren Hutsell, YPG chaplain. "Generally my sessions aren't for an extended period of time: my role is to be there at the moment things are bad and get folks pointed in the right direction and connected to long-term counseling with professionals who focus in that area."

Hutsell said assistance from chapel staff is available to people of any-- or no--religious faith and is stringently private.

see **COUNSELING** page 4



Rosa Dayton, transition assistance manager for YPG's Army Community Service office, discusses opportunities for former Soldiers with Milton Hawkins, disabled veterans outreach specialist for the Arizona Department of Economic Security. Transition assistance for Soldiers separating from active duty is one of many counseling services available to YPG Soldiers, Families, and Department of the Army civilians.

PHOTO BY MARK SCHAUER



YPG voter assistance officer Juanita Saez (left) provides voter materials to Spc. Fadi Tami of the YPG Health Clinic during a recent outreach effort of the Federal Voting Assistance Program at the Coyote Lanes Bowling Alley. The program provides information such as primary dates and voter registration deadlines to Soldiers, Families, and Department of Defense civilians. Tami, who was born in Syria and recently obtained his United States citizenship, said he will be exercising his right to vote for the first time this year. "We just hand out resources to people," said Saez. "We can't encourage people to vote and aren't allowed to accept completed voter registration forms." The outreach effort will continue at various locations around YPG at lunchtime on the last Thursday of the month. More information is available at www.FVAP.gov.

PHOTO BY MARK SCHAUER

THE OUTPOST

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VIEWPOINTS

Baseball is the great American pastime, and nostalgia for the boys of summer is never far from our minds. With spring training in swing, we asked, "Who was your favorite baseball player while growing up?"



Randy Ehrlich
Threat Systems Lead

Probably Gary Templeton. He had amazingly fast hands at shortstop. I liked Bruce Bochy, but he turned out to be a better coach than catcher. Everyone liked Tony Gwynn, and I liked Graig Nettles when he came to the Padres.



Debbie Cushman
Order Clerk

My favorite was Reggie Jackson. I really liked him in the 1977 World Series when he hit four homeruns in one game. I thought that was really phenomenal. He was a hero.

Mike Brick
Transportation

Mickey Mantle. I wanted to be just like him. As I got older, I had different favorites: Sandy Koufax, Johnny Bench, Tony Gwynn. I grew up playing baseball: I played semi-pro ball when I was 16.



Bill Aynes
Test Officer

My favorite was Sandy Koufax. I grew up in the Los Angeles area and the Dodgers were the team. I think I even had a Sandy Koufax lunchbox. He and the LA Rams quarterback Roman Gabriel were big heroes in the sports world for kids.



Phil Hansen
Weapons Operator

I liked Pete Rose and Johnny Bench. They played on those great Reds teams in the '70s and had the work ethic of never giving up and always going for it. If I had to choose between them, I'd go with Johnny Bench. He was underrated, always played with heart and followed the rules.



Darrell Williams
Range Controller

Goose Gossage. I used to watch him pitch in spring training for the Padres when I was a kid. He had big, thick glasses and always beat the batters. He was a great player who stood the test of time.



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COUNSELING

FROM PAGE 2

"I'm sensitive to the fact that not everyone I counsel has my religious background, so I don't place that on them," said Hutsell. "But if there is a spiritual aspect to their lives I can engage, I do so. I take counseling very seriously and want to see a positive outcome for anyone who comes to see me."

One of the first entities likely to receive referrals from chapel personnel is YPG's Employee Assistance Program, managed by YPG human resources chief Juanita Saez.

"The majority of our client contacts are individuals who are really stressed out," said Saez. "Coming to us is free and confidential. We can't share anything with anyone else without a release signed by the client."

Like most of YPG's various services, only Soldiers, Families, Veterans, and Department of the Army Civilians are eligible. Many members of YPG's contractor labor force have prior military service or are the spouse of someone who does, and, in a crisis, no one will be turned away. Additionally, Soldiers and Families have additional resources available through the Military One Source program.

"Although we don't do clinical therapy, we do provide short-term counseling," said Saez. "We come up

with action plans for the individual to get them back on track."

This can include referrals to a therapist or psychologist at another military installation or, in the case of a civilian, in the private sector.

Services available to individuals run the gamut from behavioral and family health to substance abuse. Consultation services are also available to supervisors to address issues like workplace morale and conflict resolution.

But what about people stressed over personal finances? In addition to services like relocation and transition assistance and a lending closet of household goods for newly arrived personnel, the Army Community Services (ACS) office offers financial readiness counseling that can help people overwhelmed by debt.

Like everyone involved in counseling services at YPG, Connie Everley, personal financial readiness specialist, reiterates that clients who visit are always assured of confidentiality, even if they have been ordered by a superior to obtain the counseling.

Though life sometimes can feel grim, the key point stressed by representatives of all entities of YPG's workforce safety net is that there is a variety of free, confidential help for people needing a hand.

"We have good programs run by caring, committed people," said Saez. "We want to offer options: usually when a person is in crisis, they don't see any options."

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Accompanied by wife, Norma, and son, Brian, YPG commander Col. Reed Young waves to the downtown Yuma crowd while riding a hay wagon in the annual Jaycees Silver Spur Rodeo early last month. "It was a great deal of fun," said Young. "It's great to participate in events like this to show the community we're interested in their activities and grateful for all their support." YPG has been a regular participant in the parade for many years.

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From El Salvador to Iraq, YPG's New Chaplain Has Long Years of Experience

by Mark Schauer

With two deployments in Iraq and years of experience as an overseas missionary, you might think Maj. Loren Hutsell would find Yuma Proving Ground an underwhelming post. But after nearly two months, Hutsell has proved an interested, dynamic and engaged chaplain.

"I'm excited to serve as a community chaplain," said Hutsell. "Up to this point I've always been attached to a specific unit, so this assignment is almost like going back to being a pastor."

Serving at YPG also brings him closer to his roots: Born to American missionary parents in Paraguay, Hutsell and his two brothers and two sisters spent the majority of their childhood in South America.

"I used to speak Spanish better than English," Hutsell said. "It has been 25 years since I used it regularly, though, so my vocabulary isn't what it should be. I enjoy the culture immensely and it is fun to be in a place with a culture I haven't experienced for a while."

Hutsell's family moved to Honduras when he was seven, and he attended high school in Ecuador. His early adulthood saw him doing



missionary work in civil war-torn El Salvador, where he helped run immunization clinics and build housing for refugees while sharing the gospel. Back in the States, Hutsell attended a Presbyterian seminary in California before graduating from

Northwest University. It was at the latter school where he met his wife of nearly 23 years, Heather, in the library.

"Whenever I'm talking to single Soldiers looking for a date, I tell them to go to the library," said Hutsell

From missionary work in war-torn El Salvador in the 1980s to two deployments to Iraq, Chaplain (Maj.) Loren Hutsell brings a wealth of experience to the position of protestant chaplain. "We're not just living for this time, but for the world to come," he said.

PHOTO BY MARK SCHAUER

with a smile. "I did, and it worked great for me."

Having been raised in South America and lacking any first-hand experience with the American military, Hutsell's path to the Army took longer than most who serve. Though impressed by a chaplaincy orientation he attended at Fort Lewis in 1991, it was nearly eight years before Hutsell took the plunge.

"I always felt that I would be a missionary," said Hutsell. "But my perception of missionary work growing up was being like my parents, doing church work in a foreign country. I struggled in my life trying to find a place to fit."

He began his military career in the naval reserve in 1999, and though he enjoyed the experience,

was moved to join the Army after four years.

"I wanted to make serving as a military chaplain a long-term

see **CHAPLAIN** page 9

CANINES

FROM PAGE 1

hiking over rocky desert terrain as the teams proceed through various scenarios on the search for explosives or various scents. Some situations even incorporate simulated small arms fire and explosions caused by hard-to-spot tripwires. Though the loud explosions erupt dust clouds and, sometimes, a temporary dye, they are sobering, realistic reminders of battlefield dangers.

Spec. Tyler Gosla was a student in a search dog course held at YPG last month. “We’re here for two weeks,” he said, “and, to me, YPG looks like everything I’ve heard about conditions in Afghanistan. The scenarios are ones I’ll deal with for real overseas, which is where most of us students are going.”

Specialized search dogs are commonly used to search for explosives along roadways, both buried and on the surface. Improvised explosive devices have caused innumerable American casualties in both Iraq and Afghanistan, making trained dogs of particular value.

The extremely sensitive noses dogs possess have caused their use overseas to grow exponentially in the last five years. Gosla, who as a young boy had a dog as a pet, like many of us, felt his eyes have opened regarding the capabilities of trained canines. “I’m extremely impressed,” he said. “They use their noses to sense things we can’t see, even scents buried beneath the ground or in water. Dogs are far more intelligent than most people give them credit

“The extremely sensitive noses dogs possess have caused their use overseas to grow exponentially in the last five years”

— Spec Tyler Gosla

It takes many hours of filming to produce a television documentary. A five person crew recently spent two long days downrange at YPG.

PHOTO BY CHUCK WULLENJOHN

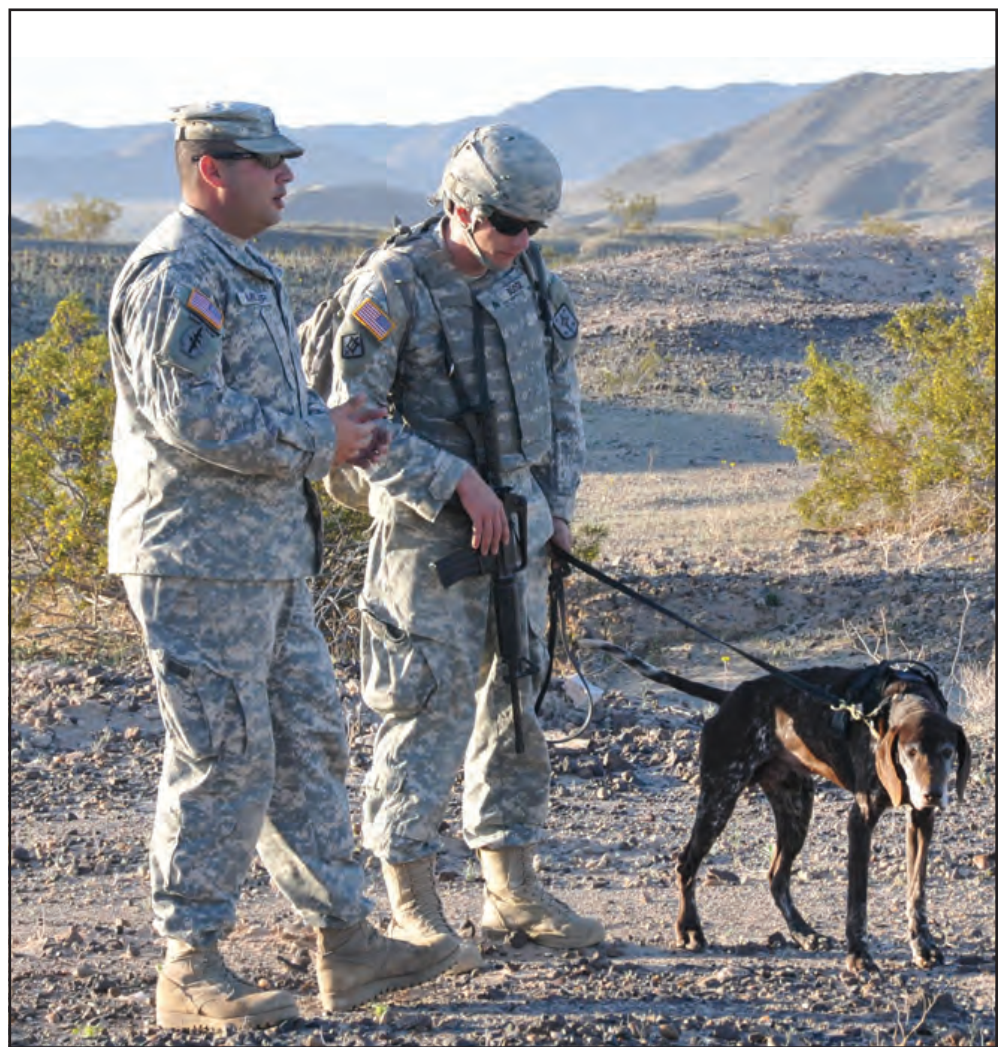
for.” Staff Sgt. Richard Miller, a 14-year Army veteran working on his tenth year with military canines, says he considers working dogs to be one of the greatest assets the Army has. “These dogs save lives, which I’ve seen many, many times on my tours in Iraq and Afghanistan. The environment YPG offers is invaluable to Soldiers heading overseas.”

Late last month, a film crew producing a documentary to be televised locally in Austin, Texas, and syndicated to Public Broadcasting System stations around the country, spent two days at YPG capturing video and interviews of the dogs and their handlers in action. The title of the documentary is “Canine Soldiers” and no completion or broadcast date has yet been set.

While Yuma Proving Ground’s mission priority is centered on testing and evaluating a tremendous variety of weapon systems and munitions, the training of troops and working dog teams is an important component of the overall workload - one that could very well expand in future years.

Staff Sgt. Richard Miller (left) instructs a trainee and his military working dog colleague on the specifics of a simulated mission. YPG hosts working dog programs from multiple military branches and civilian law enforcement agencies.

PHOTO BY MARK SCHAUER





Winter visitors from the Senator's Wash long-term visitor's area thanked YPG fire fighters for their service by presenting 735 dozen cookies to their heroes last month. The cookies, many of which were homemade, far exceeded last year's donation of 509 dozen. "This is the way we try to show our appreciation," said Sally Beeson, who spearheaded the collection. "It is so wonderful of them to help us."

PHOTO BY MARK SCHAUER

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CHAPLAIN

FROM PAGE 6

ministry," Hutsell said. "The Army had many more opportunities in this area than the Navy."

His first assignment was to a multiple-launch rocket systems field artillery unit at Fort Sill, Oklahoma.

"It was a wonderful introduction to the Army," said Hutsell. "The field artillery community works hard, but knows how to relax and have fun as well. Serving with them really brought home that the Army isn't a job, it is a life."

In 2005, Hutsell followed the unit to Iraq, then served in a second deployment there four years later, where he was assigned to combat support hospitals in Tikrit, Mosul, and El-Assad, where he saw the consequences of war in a constant stream of wounded and dying Soldiers and civilians.

"The last deployment was one of the most difficult experiences I've had as a minister," Hutsell said. "You never knew what kind of wounds you were about to encounter as the MRAPs came rolling up. But there were also incredible moments of doctors, nurses, and medics saving lives at the last moment. I saw amazing medical ministry by fellow Soldiers, and it was a real honor for me to be part of that team."

Despite the hardships of war, there were also moments of uplift and redemption. When several Soldiers requested that Hutsell baptize them during his first deployment, the unit's motor pool made a baptismal font out of empty crates lined with heavy

plastic.

Uniquely, Hutsell used local prayer rugs as part of the ceremony, and afterwards gave them to each Soldier as a memento of the day.

"I consider myself a non-denominational Christian," said Hutsell. "I think it is my mission to enhance what unites us, not what divides. There is a place for denominationalism, but I want to take a more incorporating approach to the Christian faith."

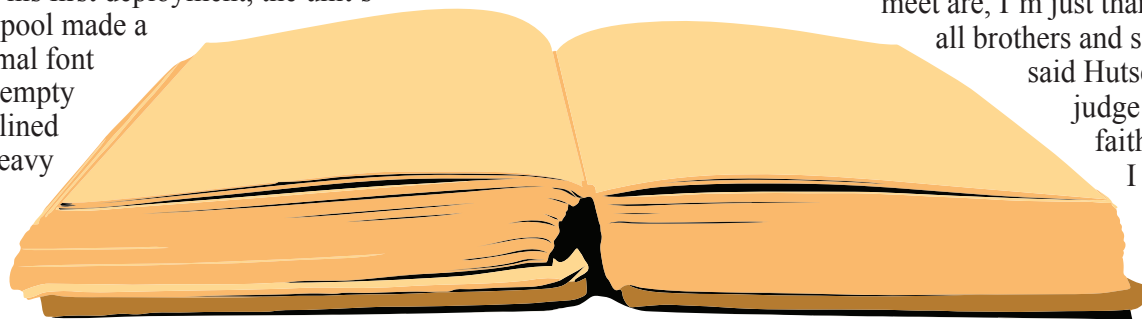
Hutsell says this belief is influenced by his own experiences in childhood attending religious schools of

different denominations and the realities of American demographics.

"A great many Americans have many different encounters with churches and religious backgrounds throughout their lives," said Hutsell. "Oftentimes we marry someone from another religious background. It is important to find a place to come together."

Hutsell encourages YPG personnel to attend services and look to the chapel as a place for personal and spiritual guidance.

"On Sundays, I don't even think about what denomination people I meet are, I'm just thankful that we're all brothers and sisters in Christ," said Hutsell. "I don't judge people by what faith they are from; I like them for who they are."



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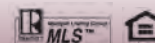
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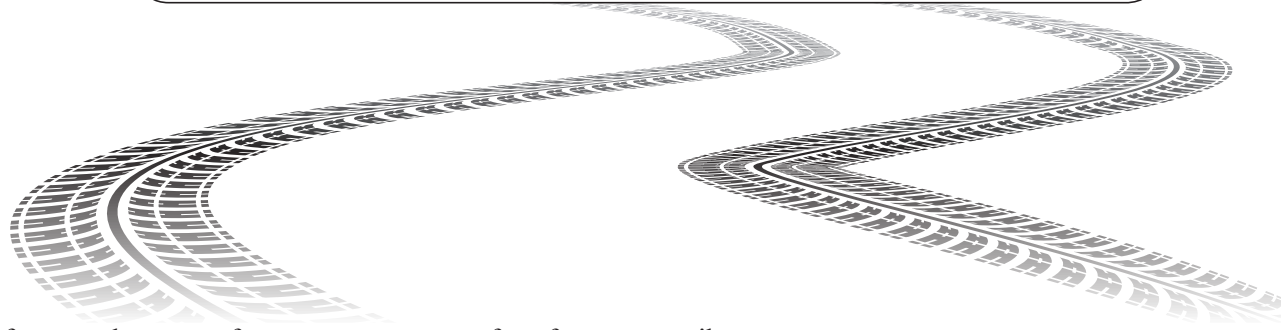
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CLEANUP

FROM PAGE 1

interested parties, the meeting took place at the Yuma County library in the Foothills.

Yuma Proving Ground, like other military installations, has established a formal Installation Restoration Program (IRP) that cleans up sites from the past that underwent environmental damage, such as hazardous leaks or unexploded munitions. Established as a formal program at YPG many years ago, IRP cleanup sites are the result of activities that took place decades ago, in a less environmentally sensitive time.

YPG Environmental Protection Specialist Donnett Brown says the program has resulted in a great deal of forward progress. "We've been quite successful over the years," she said. "We work well with State of Arizona environmental authorities and have had successful decision documents created for four of our sites."

One of these sites was used many years ago to store pesticides that, unfortunately,

leached into the soil. Experts determined that soil removal was unnecessary and recommended that the site be "capped" with an asphalt surface to immobilize it. "Cleaning it up would cause more damage than keeping it in place," Brown explained.

At another site, where fuel leaked from a storage bladder in the 1960's, a mechanical soil extraction unit is being used to extract fuel from the soil. Over 150,000 gallons of fuel have been removed from the ground thus far.

"Meetings like this are worthwhile, for they tell people we at YPG are good stewards of the land and are cleaning up past mistakes," said Brown. "We keep our presentations at the meetings in laymen's terms rather than throwing around complicated acronyms, which result in confusion and cause people to tune out."

"A law requires that we hold meetings like this to inform the public," said Environmental Sciences Director Charley Ruerup. "We advertise these meetings in advance to encourage attendance and make a point to always address public comments."

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Who is eligible to shop at proving ground commissary?

People regularly ask this question, so here is the latest scoop. Department of Defense regulations define individuals, organizations and activities entitled to unlimited commissary privileges, except when prohibited by treaty or other international agreements in foreign countries. The compensation status of the military member is the primary determinant of commissary privileges.

Authorized commissary patrons include active duty, Guard and Reserve members, military retirees, Medal of Honor recipients, 100 percent disabled veterans and their authorized family members.

Civilians living on Yuma Proving

Ground may be authorized to shop in the commissary under a provision in regulations that allows secretaries of military departments to approve commissary privileges for civilian employees of the Department of Defense who reside on an installation within the United States when it is impractical for the civilian employee to purchase commissary supplies from civilian sources and the authorization will not impair the efficient operations of the installation.

The Defense Commissary Agency has no authority to determine whether an individual is authorized to shop in the commissary. If you believe you may be entitled to commissary privileges contact Chief of Housing

Mike Castaneda at 328-2031.

For specific details, refer to the DoD instruction available on the Internet: Commissary eligibility is addressed in "Department of Defense Instruction number 1330.17, October 8, 2008, Armed Services Commissary Operations", which can be located online by selecting DoD Issuances on the Department of Defense website, <http://www.dtic.mil/whs/directives/index.html> or at this link, <http://www.dtic.mil/whs/directives/corres/pdf/133017p.pdf>.

YPG's commissary is available for use by active duty service personnel and their Families, reservists, military retirees, and disabled veterans.

PHOTO BY MARK SCHAUER



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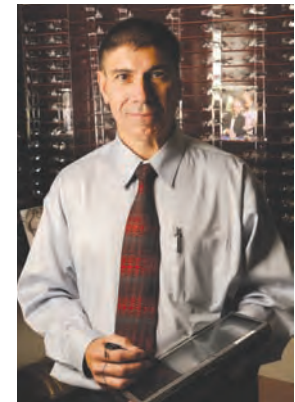
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About Dr. Aiello



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.



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