

Lightweight Counter-Mortar Radar testing takes advantage of YPG strengths

By Mark Schauer

Afghanistan's challenging mountain terrain and dearth of infrastructure often means the humble mortar is the most practical means of providing indirect fire support.

Unfortunately for American Soldiers, mortars are also easily accessible for use by insurgents. This means the necessity for a reliable, easily portable radar system that can warn troops of incoming fire is a pressing one. Today, testers at YPG are hard at work ensuring that the latest version of the Lightweight Counter Mortar Radar (LCMR) is equal to this important need.

Part of the counter-rocket artillery and mortar



Test officer Jonny Clark inspects a Lightweight Counter Mortar Radar (LCMR) unit under evaluation at YPG. The LCMR is a groundbreaking improvement over its predecessors by providing a 360 degree detection radius for incoming rounds.

PHOTO BY MARK SCHAUER

(C-RAM) system that has been tested at YPG since its inception early in the last

decade, the LCMR was a groundbreaking improvement over its predecessors by

providing a 360 degree detection radius for incoming rounds. In previous systems

that provided coverage from only one 90 degree angle, a perceptive enemy could determine the system's blind side from the direction its antenna dish faced, then fire easily-moved mortars from the opposite side. The LCMR automatically tracks incoming rounds and allows Soldiers to rapidly determine the exact location the enemy is firing from. As part of C-RAM it is used to direct counterfire at the projectiles as they are in flight toward their target.

"The radar is built to track mortars, artillery, and rockets," said Jonny Clark, test officer.

Just as important for troops in combat theaters,

see **TESTING** page 5

First time ever, YPG is going to the country fair

By Mark Schauer

Nothing brings Yuma County residents together like the county fair. For the first time in at least 30 years, Yuma Proving Ground

will actively take part in the festivities with a public exhibit.

"YPG is an important part of the community," said Chuck Wullenjohn, YPG public affairs officer. "The

military is one of the three economic legs of Yuma County and it is important for us to be involved in community activities as much as possible."

YPG's exhibit will

consist of a large photo display, military equipment currently tested at YPG, and a collection of vintage Army helmets from across

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Employee embarks on Afghanistan adventure

By Yolie Canales

Administrative assistant Janine Shaffer identifies herself as an adventurous person who loves challenges. Shaffer, a native of Douglas, Ariz., has been at Yuma Proving Ground for five years and currently works in the Resource Management Directorate. She hails from Fort Bragg, N.C. where she was an administrative personnel specialist while serving six years as an Army sergeant.

"I miss being in the Army and the camaraderie one builds when working alongside fellow Soldiers," said Shaffer. "This is one of the reasons I signed up for this deployment."

She deployed to Afghanistan in mid-March for one year and looks forward to it. "I served in Iraq in 2002-2003 as a Soldier, however, this time, I'm going as a civilian," she explained. "As I see it, this is a choice that makes me fully accountable and aware of the mission I am to perform."

While in Afghanistan, Shaffer will be providing administrative support, such as each individual Soldier's paper work, including evaluations,

special awards, and more. "While I was in the military, this was the type of work I performed," she said. "I'm prepared to provide my expertise where it is needed the most."

Shaffer woke one morning with the idea of a deployment on her mind. She talked to Diana Rapp, administrative assistant, about her recent deployment to Afghanistan and the rest is history. "I needed a new challenge," she said. "I applied through the Civilian Expedition Workforce online site, and within one month, I was notified via email about a vacancy in my field. It was offered and I accepted."

Although Shaffer has been deployed to Iraq before, it's been a few years, plus preparing as a civilian is somewhat different. She went through a series of vaccinations required for overseas duty and numerous briefings. Upon reporting to a camp in Indiana, she went through further medical screenings, more vaccinations and two weeks of training before boarding a plane to Afghanistan on March 16th (her birthday).

During the one year deployment her work days will often amount

to 12 hours in the office, seven days per week. She will have to put up with harsh weather and fairly primitive living accommodations; however, her commitment is firm. "I know the environment is not the best and, possibly, I will be living in a tent or a building of some kind. I am there for one year and I have every intention of doing things to the best of my ability," said Schaffer.

"I do not dwell on the deployment in a negative manner. I believe and trust in God and know I will do everything to stay safe," she said. The main challenge Shaffer sees ahead is dealing with the long work schedule. "I'm the type of person who needs eight hours of sleep in order to operate smoothly or else I get moody," she said with a smile. "The work schedule is 7 a.m. to 7 p.m.

seven days per week, so my challenge is to make sure I get my sleep, but I'll manage."

Shaffer wants everyone to know she will be back in one year. "I look forward to again seeing all my friends," she said. "I look forward to this adventure in Afghanistan, but it will be nice to return home."



Janine Shaffer, administrative assistant, looks forward to her one year deployment to Afghanistan.

PHOTO BY YOLIE CANALES

Chandler cites renewed emphasis on Army professionalism

By Rob McIlvaine

With the successful completion of the mission in Iraq and a transition to Afghan security forces, the Army will begin to reduce force structure.

It will also identify the qualities needed by this downsizing force, said Sgt. Maj. of the Army Raymond F. Chandler III in a recent roundtable on Soldier professionalism.

"For me, there are three criteria to

identify professional Soldiers:

- Competence, or the ability to do your job and do it well;
- Character: the understanding that a Soldier acts on behalf of the nation, rather than his or herself;
- and commitment: which is a personal calling to serve in the Army and the nation, before all else,"

Chandler said.

Over the next six years, Chandler said the Army will reduce its active

forces end strength from 570,000 to 490,000, which will include the reduction of at least eight brigade combat teams.

"We are committed to accomplishing these cuts in a controlled and responsible manner. But I want to stress — even though we are in a transition, our mission has not decisively changed. It's to prevent war by our capacity, readiness and modernization, shape

the environment in which we operate and when called to combat, fight and win our nation's wars, decisively," he said.

While the Army focuses a lot on competence, Chandler believes that character and commitment need a renewed effort and focus over the next several years. "It's easy to see competence. You take a look

see **CHANDLER** page 5

Range control specialist selected as YPG's Civilian of the Quarter

By Yolie Canales

At Yuma Proving Ground, one can say nearly every worker has a distinct specialty. For example, ammunition handlers must have a solid background in that field in order to perform at their best level and the same goes for almost everyone.

Yuma Test Center's Range Control Operations Division is the hub where all range activities are monitored and controlled. Division employees pay close attention to minute details at all times, for they are responsible for monitoring multiple test and training activities on YPG's 838,000 acres of land and nearly 2 million acres of restricted airspace. They must be extremely alert at all times and prepared to respond with instantaneous proper actions in the event of mishaps.

Darrell Williams, range control specialist, is one of these unique individuals who helps keep everyone safe on the ranges. He was recently recognized as Employee of the Quarter for the first quarter of the current fiscal year for his hard work. He is one of seven individuals assigned to Range Control in the Range Operations Center that operates on a 24-seven work schedule.

A 20-plus year veteran of YPG, Williams has been a member of range control for four years. As range control specialist, his duties are to work the range control desk, controlling personnel, vehicles, aircraft, and firing clearances on the ranges. In addition, he approves schedule requests, defines schedule conflicts/program compatibilities, proposes resolutions to conflicts, and ensures conducts testing in the safest possible manner.

Because of his close attention to detail, he single handedly improved the error rate for test officer validated surface danger zones from several per day to five in a three month period and increased operational and safety efficiencies for SOTACC through the use of the Weapons Danger Zone application.

Williams says the most unique things about his job are the opportunity to interact with many different entities and that there are never dull days. "Another thing I enjoy about my job is the dynamics of the test schedule and not enough hours in the day to get all that needs to get done accomplished," he said. "I would like to say how great it is to work with the intelligent and talented people here at Range Control and throughout the proving ground."



Darrell Williams, range control specialist, prepares to pull the lanyard at the recent civilian of the quarter ceremony.

PHOTO BY MARK SCHAUER

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VIEWPOINTS

Nothing brings a community together like a good old-fashioned county fair. With YPG preparing its booth and display for this year's Yuma County Fair, we asked, "What is your favorite part of a county fair?"



Kristin Bodes
Engineering Technician

My favorite part of the fair has always been the rides, especially the Ferris wheel. I like being up high and looking at everything.



Heather Walke
Photographer

I used to show animals for 4H and Future Farmers of America at the Yuma Country Fair when I was younger. I had chickens, goats, cattle. I won in my class sometimes, but never overall. These days I go and give pointers to the kids about their projects.



Ted Faz
Engineering Technician

I don't really like crowds, but I like seeing the demolition derby. It's something different, and my friend Sam Deckard is out there every year.



Staff Sgt. David Minnis
Airborne Test Force

I like all the food. The fry bread is great. Rides like the Gravitron and the Zipper took me out on multiple occasions when I was a kid. When I was about 10, I puked on my mom when we were on the Octopus.

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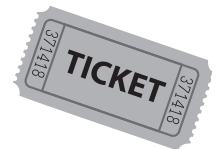


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Sylvia Hughes
Budget Analyst

I like eating all the different foods, like the fry bread and funnel cake that you can't ordinarily get in a restaurant. The grilled and barbecued ears of corn are great, too.

Donna Beck Trax

My favorite part is the kids' 4-H and Future Farmers of America projects. I participated when I was a kid, and my kids and grandkids do, too. Some of my grandkids have smaller animals like roosters, but I like the bigger animals like pigs and sheep. My kids always placed in the blues.



TESTING

FROM PAGE 1

the LCMR system is relatively easy to transport and emplace. It can be airlifted intact into otherwise inaccessible locations by helicopter, or even delivered by a duo of paratroopers, who can easily assemble the device upon landing.

For the YPG test, two different radars located several miles apart are being evaluated by test personnel located at a single test site. To test the device's accuracy at detecting a variety of incoming fire, a weapons operation crew moves to different locations across YPG's expansive range throughout the day.

"We like to test different shot ranges, aspect angles, and shot types," said Clark. "It is easier to accomplish this by moving the gun crew around rather than the test equipment."

The diverse expertise of YPG's weapons operators means the LCMR can be readily put through its paces against all types of indirect fire, from mortars to 155 mm artillery shells and 122 mm rockets, all in the same day. YPG also tests the item mounted to the back of a Humvee with assistance from the combat automotive division, and has even evaluated its effectiveness in resisting electronic jamming devices. This type of sophisticated testing relies on the availability of radio frequencies, and YPG has nearly 500 permanent ones and as many as 2,000 temporary ones available in a given month.

"Part of the challenge of testing this radar is frequency authorizations," said Clark. "YPG has the frequency authorizations to test it, whereas other facilities don't. We're fortunate that we are allowed to use the LCMR exactly the way it is meant to be used."

With an engineering test just completed and developmental testing underway, LCMR testing should continue into the foreseeable future, particularly given YPG's lengthy experience with testing the item.

CHANDLER

FROM PAGE 2

at a counseling statement, or an evaluation, or you ask the Soldier a few questions about his or her job.

"It's not so easy to see character and commitment. For that, you really have to know someone. You really have to be that leader — the kind who guides, mentors and leads by example.

As Chandler travels around the Army and talks with Soldiers, he said he talks about these three characteristics. "And I talk about being professional. It is the cornerstone of being who we say that we are."

"Our Soldiers have shown this professionalism over and over again the last 10 years of conflict. It's going to take professional Soldiers and leaders to tackle some of the issues we're faced with now: post-traumatic stress, post-traumatic brain injury, wounded warrior care, suicide, sexual assault and harassment, hazing, and to manage our drawdown and transfer, and transition Soldiers with dignity and respect back into the civilian world," Chandler said.

The Army must meet these head on, he said, to ensure Soldiers are not

only receiving the care they need, but also are maintaining good order and discipline expected of the United States Army Soldier. "I, along with the Army senior leadership, am committed to this and will not rest until we make significant and lasting improvements in all of these areas and more," he said.

Over this past year, Chandler, who said he's very proud to be part of the Army

team, has traveled about 200,000 miles as the sergeant major of the Army. "And

wherever I go, I can't help but be in awe of the professionalism, dedication, and sacrifice our Soldiers, and our family members and civilians display every day. Our Army is quite frankly the best trained, best manned, best equipped, and best led force in our history," he said, adding that Secretary of the Army John McHugh, Army Chief of Staff Gen. Raymond T. Odierno and he are proud of what Soldiers and civilians have

accomplished over the past decade.

"We've proven ourselves in every

"...wherever I go, I can't help but be in awe of the professionalism, dedication, and sacrifice our Soldiers, and our family members and civilians display every day..."

— Raymond F. Chandler, Sgt. Maj. of the Army

COUNTY FAIR

FROM PAGE 1

the 20th century that the public will be allowed to touch, hold, and try on. YPG employees will also be on hand to talk about YPG's current activities and future opportunities.

"YPG participates in multiple

community events throughout the year, but the Yuma County Fair attracts a wider and more diverse segment of the population that any of our other events," said Wullenjohn. "The fair is a lot of fun and represents the old-fashioned American values we all hold dear."

The YPG display, located in



Sgt. Maj. of the Army Raymond F. Chandler III, said the Army will identify the qualities needed in its Soldiers as it downsizes during a recent roundtable on Soldier professionalism.

LOANED PHOTO

engagement and continue to display the physical and mental toughness long associated with the word Soldier."

Chandler also said the Army has spent the last few years analyzing and dialoguing about how to use the experience gained from the past decade of conflict to better understand the Soldiers' role as professionals, from senior Army leadership down to the lowest private in the formation. "Professionalism is built on a bedrock of trust— the positive relationship between the American people that is based on mutual trust and respect. Only by military effectiveness performed through honorable service, by an Army with high levels of trustworthiness and esprit de corps, can the Army truly be a profession," Chandler said.

the Commercial Building, will be manned by YPG personnel for the duration of the fair, April 3rd through 8th. The building opens at 3 p.m. on Tuesday, April 3rd, and at 12 p.m. every other day except Saturday, when the public will be admitted at 10 a.m. The exhibition buildings close each night at 10 p.m.

IMCOM promise: World-class customer service

By Lt. Gen. Michael Ferriter, IMCOM commander

Every day across our installations, members of Team Installation Management Command (IMCOM) work hard to provide world-class customer service and make it a great day to be a Soldier, Family member, Army civilian or contractor.

A prime example is when a 71-year-old retired sergeant visited the Fort McCoy identification card office to renew his card. Ken Quade, a separation and retirement services specialist, noticed the retiree needed a different kind of card, for he was not receiving all the benefits he should have.

Quade could see the customer needed help and took corrective action. Incredibly, the retiree was able to recover more than \$41,000 in back

pay and receive other benefits he had earned.

Just imagine the impact of this on the retiree and his wife. They returned to the office to tell Quade in person what a big difference it made in their lives.

We in the INCOM are charged with delivering the majority of installation services and Soldier and Family programs, and know that a critical element of service delivery depends on our people.

World-class customer service depends on making connections with the customers across the counter—listening to them, working to find solutions, and saying thank you. It doesn't cost a penny to make someone feel like a million dollars. It does take the commitment to serve and provide leadership at every level.

Our focus on customer service is a promise of predictable service. It is

a promise that customers will always be treated with courtesy, respect and an attitude of let's-make-this-work.

We can see many other great examples of customer service across IMCOM. Thank you, IMCOM personnel, for setting the standard for customer service. I am extremely proud of our team and what you do for Soldiers, Families and civilians every day.

And thank you, too, to our customers for your feedback. Keep sending those ICE comments. Visit the IMCOM Facebook page and tell us about team members who deliver excellent customer service. We want to know how we can improve, and just as much, we want to hear about our stars.



Lt. Gen. Michael Ferriter, IMCOM commander.

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Volunteers help clean Post Chapel

By Yolie Canales

Spring is the period of time set aside for cleaning house. This is the time a house is cleaned from top to bottom and typically takes place in early spring.

Approximately 15 volunteers who are chapel community members (winter visitors as well) recently took time out from their busy schedules to perform spring cleaning at the chapel. They dusted every pew, cleaned Bible holders in the pews, dusted furniture and polished the piano and organ including the pulpit and the lantern. Several people commented as to why they volunteered. "We clean our own home and it's a privilege to come and help clean God's house of worship. It's our place to come and worship,

it's the least we can do" said Beverly and Jim Priest. Bob Sterling said, "I help clean my home and I think it is much more important to clean God's house. He cleans me spiritually, so I think it is important to keep His house clean."

It has been suggested that the origins of spring cleaning date back to the Iranian Norouz, the Persian new year, which falls on the first day of spring. Iranians continue the practice of "khooneh tekouni" which literally means "shaking the house" just before the new year. Everything in the house is thoroughly cleaned, from the drapes to the furniture. A similar tradition is the Scottish "new year's cleaning" on Hogmanay (December 31), a practice now also widespread in Ireland, New Zealand,



A group of volunteers are busy doing spring cleaning at the Yuma Proving Ground Post Chapel.

LOANED PHOTO

and, to some extent, North America.

In North American and Northern Europe, the custom found a special practical value due to those regions' continental and wet climates. During the 19th century in America, prior to the advent of the vacuum cleaner, March was often the best time for

dusting because it was getting warm enough to open windows and doors and the high winds could carry dust out of the house. For the same reason, modern rural households often use the month of March for cleaning projects, for example, the Post Chapel recent "spring cleaning."

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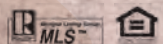
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Yuma Proving Ground enters new year at highest work pace ever

By Chuck Wullenjohn

Yuma Proving Ground has been a fixture of Yuma County for nearly 70 years, starting operations in 1943 as a mechanized infantry training center and test site. Ensuing decades saw the proving ground grow both in complexity and size. Today, encompassing over 1,300 square miles, YPG is one of the largest military installations in the nation.

The primary mission of the proving ground, as it has been for many decades, is to test weapon systems and munitions to ensure everything

issued to American troops functions as advertised, without fail, all the time. It's an important job that every member of the proving ground's 3,000 strong workforce takes to heart.

The past decade has been a busy one, one which saw the YPG workload grow considerably. Back around 2000, the typical year's workload saw the proving ground complete between 1.2 and 1.4 million direct labor man-hours. The largest single component of the workload tended to be in the munitions and weapons test commodity area, meaning artillery and mortar testing made up a majority percentage of the overall workload. Aviation, automotive and armored vehicle testing were significant components



CW4 Peter Lautzenheiser (right) explains the work that is conducted on a daily basis at the Air Delivery Complex to Maj. Gen. Jimmie Wells, commanding general for the 7th Training Division during his recent visit to YPG.

PHOTO BY YOLIE CANALES

of the YPG mission, just not as large.

The situation is different today. Many years of combat operations in the harsh climate of Southwest Asia resulted in a dramatic increase in the amount of work performed at YPG. The year 2008 saw the proving ground's workload exceed two million man-hours for the first time ever. The workload continued to expand in following years and in 2011 YPG's people executed 2.77 million man-hours in the conduct

...encompassing over 1,300 square miles, YPG is one of the largest military installations in the nation.

of tests in Yuma and other locations around the globe.

The mix of those tests also changed from what it had been 10 years before. All test commodity areas grew in size throughout the decade and one was added - the testing of technologies used to defeat improvised explosive devices. Though munitions and weapons testing remained as important as ever, automotive and armored vehicle testing grew at an even more rapid pace, such that in 2012 it makes up

the largest single workload component.

This high workload is a testament of the quality product the proving ground provides test customers.

"It's pretty easy to draw a direct correlation between our labor hours and the quality of the people here," said Col. Reed Young, YPG commander. "They're the reason why we continue to be a record-setter."

Yuma Proving Ground accounted for 30 percent of the Army's total test workload last year, making it the busiest of the Army's test centers. Though

funding levels for future years are unknown, and may very well decline as combat operations scale back, YPG is poised to remain the Army's test leader.

YPG recently displayed photographs and military equipment at the MCAS Yuma Air Show on March 17th.

For those who did not get the opportunity to attend the air show, YPG will have another equipment and photograph display at the Yuma County Fair, April 3rd through 8th. Everyone is invited to stop by to both examine display materials on hand and say hello to members of the YPG workforce. It promises to be not only an educational venue but also a fun one. We look forward to seeing you.

Sharing YPG details with the Secretary of the Army

By Chuck Wullenjohn

It's not routine for a representative of the Secretary of the Army to visit Yuma Proving Ground, but that was the case late last month.

Randy Groth, civilian aide to the Secretary of the Army for Arizona, spent an overnight visit at YPG gathering details about activities at the proving ground to help him do a better job and share with his boss.

A resident of Sierra Vista, south of Tucson, Groth has visited YPG several times over the years, but never for such an in-depth series of briefings and personal visits.

Groth was appointed to the position in 2004, serving as liaison between the people of Arizona and the Secretary of the Army. Visiting installations, meeting with Soldiers, understanding defense industries, ensuring wounded warriors are receiving appropriate care, and advocating for military families, are a few of the duties he performs. Some situations he deals with exist in numerous other states, as well, meaning coordination with the Secretary of the Army and others is beneficial in solving common problems.

Arizona is an interesting state, says Groth, because its population is made up 10 percent of veterans. "This is a very much pro-military state," he said. "Major contingents within each of the major communities in Arizona are big supporters of the military and I see the same thing when I visit more rural areas. The major problems some other states have experienced haven't cropped up here."

Civilian aides from the various states talk to and visit each other,

travel back and forth to Washington throughout the year and regularly communicate with the Secretary of the Army, but the highlight is an annual conference held each year in a different location. Traditionally held in April, the 2012 national conference will be held in Tucson.

"We also hook up with the Secretary when passing through our area, so with all the times we see each

other throughout the year, we end up developing a close relationship," explained Groth.

During his stay at Yuma Proving Ground, Groth participated in one-on-one visits with YPG Commander Col. Reed Young, but also received detailed briefings from staff members and spent hours on the range visiting test facilities.

"YPG is important from both

the national and international perspectives and the vast amounts of restricted air and land space here are unique assets which I intend to incorporate into the briefs I will present at the national meeting next month," he said. "I'm very impressed with the synergy I see between Fort Huachuca and YPG. "



Randy Groth (left), civilian aide to the Secretary of the Army for Arizona, listens as Hugh Lottinger, chief of Yuma Test Center's Range Control, explains the operations at range control as Col. Reed Young, YPG commander listens.

PHOTO BY MARK SCHAUER

Price Elementary School Go-Getters

Congratulations to February's Go-Getters Nathan Heller, 2nd grade, and Olin Pakkala, 3rd grade, of Miss Nixon's class, and to Taylor Crawford and Jessica May, both 4th grade students from Mrs. Edwards' class for being selected March's Go-Getters!



Nathan Heller, 2nd Grade



Olin Pakkala, 3rd Grade



Taylor Crawford, 4th Grade



Jessica May, 4th Grade



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Cell phone use by vehicle operators at Yuma Proving Ground, as at other military installations, is a potential danger.

All vehicle operators are reminded that the use of cell phones is prohibited while operating a vehicle on the installation. The Department of Defense Code of Federal Regulations prohibits vehicle operators on all DoD installations from using cell phones unless the vehicle is safely parked or a "hands-free" device is being utilized.

THE OUTPOST

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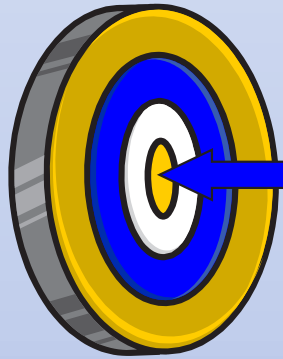
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Chaplain's Corner

Imitate what is good

Submitted by Chaplain (Maj.) Loren Hutsell

Dear friend, do not imitate what is evil but what is good. (3 John 1:11)

Growing up in South America, my family had a pet monkey whose name was Bobo. He lived in one of the trees in our front yard. Unique to Bobo was his insatiable desire to imitate life around him. For example, if someone was sawing wood, Bobo would get two sticks and act like he was sawing. If someone was hammering a nail, he would get a stick and with great force continuously strike it against a tree limb. I recall that on one particular day, he performed his greatest act of imitation. He decided to imitate the gauchos (South American cowboys) who regularly rode their horses past our house. He jumped out of the tree onto the back of our dog, grabbed him by the ears, and rode him like a horse. For a few moments, Bobo became the first gaucho-monkey of the jungle.

Not unlike Bobo, we too imitate life around us. Scripture teaches us to imitate those things that are good. Often times, this can be difficult because we have the desire to return an evil action for one that we have experienced. We want to get even. However, we are not to return evil with evil, but to return evil with good. The Apostle Paul reminds us in his letter to the Ephesians (5:1-20) that we are to imitate Christ and live a life of love in sacrifice to others. We are to rid ourselves of bitterness, rage, anger, and every form of malice. In its place, we should act with kindness, compassion, and forgiveness toward each other.

Fort Yuma marks first Army presence in Yuma

By Chuck Wullenjohn

Fort Yuma was established Nov. 27, 1850, to protect the strategic Yuma Crossing of the Colorado River. Located on a promontory overlooking the river, the fort itself was nothing more than a ramshackle collection of huts and tents at first. It wasn't until years later that the Army provided the funding necessary to make Fort Yuma into a proper outpost.

It was difficult to supply the post in its early years. Food supplies and construction materials were shipped by water from San Diego to the mouth of the Colorado River, but transferring the goods to wagons and moving them to Yuma was backbreaking and time consuming. As a result, life at the post was hard and the military's resolve to maintain a garrison vacillated. It was only two years later -- in August 1852 -- that temporary Camp Yuma became permanent Fort Yuma, and the Army resolved to stay for good.

Fort Yuma remained an active post until 1883 -- 33 years after its formation. During that time, soldiers at the fort maintained peace with the local Indians and kept watch over activity on the Colorado River.

Yuma was a significant Colorado River crossing point for wagon trains carrying settlers and prospectors to California, particularly after large deposits of gold were discovered in 1849. The Colorado River was untamed during those pre-dam years, with miles of the wide river virtually impassible due to vast areas of mud and quicksand. The narrow rock gorge through which the river passes in Yuma made the location an excellent, safe year round crossing point.

Over 60,000 people crossed at Yuma in 1850 under the protective guns of the fort. Most of these settlers followed the Gila River across Arizona to where it joined the Colorado above Yuma. They then moved south along the river toward the crossing.

As locals know, Yuma can be unbearably hot during the summer. In 1858, a soldier stationed at the fort wrote home, "The houses and quarters are built of sun-dried bricks, with every effort and provision for making the summer's heat bearable. Still, the post is but seven years old and is garrisoned by only two companies. A well-filled graveyard gives mute testimony of a most unhealthful climate."

Fort Yuma was well known in Army circles as the hottest post in the country. The fort's surgeon once reported that his pocket watch "felt like a hot boiled egg in my pocket."

During the American Civil War, the fort served as base for Union troops that blocked a Confederate thrust

through the southwest pointed at the California goldfields and stayed on the heels of the invading Confederate army as it retreated to Texas. The most famous military action in Arizona occurred near Tucson at Picacho Peak, where scouting parties from the opposing armies ran across each other and exchanged shots. The California Column ended Confederate designs for control of the southwest.

Fort Yuma is now part of the Quechan Indian Reservation. Numerous buildings remain from the military period and can easily be seen today.



Artist's rendering of Fort Yuma.

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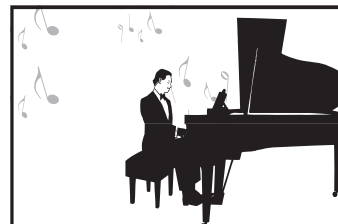
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Is your Personal Protective Equipment up to standards?

Submitted by the Safety Office

Leaders, you invest a lot of time, effort, and money in your Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) program, so you want to be sure you're meeting OSHA's expectations.

OSHA's PPE compliance directive, 29 CFR Part 10910, Subpart 1, Enforcement Guidance for Personal Protective Equipment in General Industry (CPL 02-01-050), establishes OSHA's general enforcement and guidance policy for its PPE standards. It instructs OSHA enforcement personnel on both the agency's interpretations of those standards and the procedures for enforcing them.

The bottom line, you must conduct a hazard assessment. Then you need to help select the proper PPE. Move then to ensure you arrange for 'Fit and Use' and follow the standards for the use of eye and face protective

devices, head protection, and foot protection.

OSHA wants employees to fully understand their use of PPE. During an inspection, the safety team will make sure you've trained each employee on the following:

When and what PPE is necessary.
How to don, doff, adjust and wear the PPE.

The limitations of PPE, proper care, maintenance, useful life and disposal of PPE.

The training requirements apply when PPE is used to protect the eyes and face, head, feet and hands. Failure to meet these requirements can bring a citation for a violation.

Refresher training isn't required annually or on a set schedule, but be sure to retrain each affected employee when changes in the workplace or in the types of PPE used have made previous training obsolete.

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In observance of Women's History Month DoD opens more jobs to military women

By Karen Parrish, American Forces
Press Service

Military women, particularly Soldiers, will see more than 14,000 new job or assignment opportunities because of policy changes the Defense Department announced recently.

A Pentagon news release accompanying the announcement quotes Defense Secretary Leon E. Panetta as saying women have proven themselves in and out of battle.

"Women are contributing in unprecedented ways to the military's mission," he said. "Through their courage, sacrifice, patriotism and great skill, women have proven their ability to serve in an expanding number of roles on and off the battlefield.

The biggest barrier DoD is lifting is a 1994 policy prohibiting women from jobs -- such as tank mechanic and field artillery radar operator -- that take place near combat units. With that bar removed, more than 13,000 Army jobs will be available to women Soldiers for the first time.

The second change is an "exception to policy" that will allow the Army, Navy and Marines to open select positions at the battalion level in jobs women already occupy.

The current policy, also set in 1994, bars women in jobs such as intelligence, communications and logistics from assignment at units smaller than a brigade. Nearly 1,200 assignments will open to women Soldiers, sailors and Marines under the exceptions.

As the law requires, the Defense Department will not implement the new policies until Congress has been in continuous session for 30 days, which should happen later this spring.

The 1.4 million-member active-duty force now serving includes about 205,000 women.

The report notes the changes will expand career opportunities for women, provide a greater pool of troops from which combatant commanders may draw, reduce the operational tempo for "male counterparts" by increasing the number of service members available to support direct combat forces, improve consistency in assignment policy, and give field commanders more flexibility in meeting combat-support mission requirements.

The 1994 Direct Ground Combat Definition and Assignment Rule identified five elements affecting women's military service: direct ground combat, berthing and privacy, collocation, long-range reconnaissance and special operations forces, and physically demanding tasks.

A report addresses two of these with full or partial policy changes, and addresses the others by stating department officials are working to establish gender-neutral job standards.

"This will mean a thorough analysis of job-related physical requirements ... expected of service members," the report reads in part. "These standards will help determine which specific positions presently excluded under the special operations and physical standards criteria are suitable for general assignment of both genders."

The report's authors acknowledged there are "practical barriers that require time to resolve to ensure the services maximize the safety and privacy of all service members while maintaining military readiness."

The secretary directed the services to report results, six months after the policies take effect, on their implementation of the new assignment standards and their progress developing gender-neutral physical standards.

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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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