

THE OUTPOST

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Soldiers, NCOs compete to be named YPG's best warrior

By Chuck Wullenjohn

Seven Soldiers and noncommissioned officers faced off last week at Yuma Proving Ground's first ever "best warrior" competition, which required each entrant to complete a number of demanding challenges. Unlike many competitions, the categories tested both physical endurance and mental acuity.

Through a series of Soldier-skill tests that began with an early morning run and proceeded into physical challenges, outdoor first aid to simulated wounded Soldiers, a written 50 question test, mock inspections, and more, the competition was designed to push each entrant, people who represent the best the proving ground has to offer, to his or her limit.

Staff Sgt. Norman



Each Soldier conducted a mock inspection in which he or she had to locate grooming or uniform problems. Incorrect items were arranged in advance for each student to find within a fixed amount of time.

PHOTO BY CHUCK WULLENJOHN

Dielanderos, preventative medicine NCOIC, helped coordinate the event to identify the "best of the best" at the proving ground. All the competitors were volunteers selected by their units.

"This is a grueling exercise because the idea is to measure their stamina,"

said Dielanderos in the fitness center as various physical activities took place around him. "This is a non-stop full body workout that challenges everyone who participates."

Each contestant took part in 11 fitness center activities, such as pull-ups, 40 repetitions of throwing

a medicine ball, 30 step-up repetitions while holding 20 lb. kettle weights, one arm medicine ball pushups consisting of 25 repetitions per arm, and more. Each competitor panted and perspired profusely after completing the battery of events and moved on to the

written test, which was followed by additional rapid-fire challenges.

Spec. Christian Moreno, x-ray technician, was one Soldier taking part. He practiced each day for six weeks leading up to the completion and changed his diet, eliminating fast food and red meat and concentrating on vegetables. He has been at YPG for about six months.

"This competition is probably one of the hardest things I've done in the military so far," he commented after completing the 11

activities in the fitness center. "If you want to win, you have no time to rest. You have to keep moving."

Staff Sgt Ian Dimmick, rigger, looks forward to completing two years at YPG this summer and was

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ARAPs going through its paces at YPG Page 8



From spring festivals to career days, YPG is there Page 10



Viewpoints : Remembering your first days at YPG Page 6



Military spouses recognized as key to Army success

By Yolie Canales

Military Spouse Appreciation Day is held throughout the Department of Defense the Friday before Mother's Day. In fact, the first Military Spouse Day was celebrated in 1984, when then-President Ronald Reagan proclaimed the observance to honor the contributions of military spouses. Since then, the military sets aside the date to pay tribute to spouses who play a vital role in the nation's defense.

Last year, when President Barack Obama announced a national initiative tagged "Joining Forces," aimed at increasing the support of U.S. military families, he noted that spouses are part "of the force behind the force. They, too, are the reason we've got the finest military in the world," he said.

Joining others throughout the Department of Defense was Yuma Proving Ground's Commander Col. Reed Young, who took time out of his busy schedule to pay tribute. He was privileged to recognize the wives and husbands of active-duty service members, Guardsmen and Reservists for the commitment and sacrifices they make every day at a ceremony sponsored by YPG's Family, Morale, Welfare and Recreation Directorate (FMWR) and Army Community Services.

The Army reaffirms its steadfast commitment to supporting the hundreds of thousands of wives and husbands of Soldiers stationed overseas and stateside - and those deployed to combat zones. Additionally, the Army community recognizes surviving spouses whose loved ones made the ultimate sacrifice.

Spouses can be the hardest working and the least recognized heroes supporting the military and the nation. Many young spouses have had to leave behind good careers in

order to follow their spouses throughout their military careers. They provide moral support to their spouses' career while providing the necessary care to the children, in addition, serving as both "mother and father" during spouses' deployments. They also assure children are involved in extra-curricular activities and maintaining a functional home and life style for the children's peace of mind. Spouses are the backbone of any home but, more so, are the military spouses who have to do so much more with so much less.

At the closing of the ceremony, refreshments, finger foods and a free gift were provided by the YPG commissary and FMWR for everyone's enjoyment.



Military spouses visit with each other at the ceremony honoring their many contributions to the defense of our nation.

Norma Young was given the honor of cutting the ceremonial cake at the Military Spouse Appreciation Day celebration. The event was held at the Desert Oasis/Multi-Purpose Room. Staff from LotusDay Spa were on hand providing complimentary massages for spouses.

PHOTOS BY MARK SCHAUER



Col. Reed Young, YPG commander (right) and Gordon Rogers, deputy garrison manager, (left) pose for a group photo with the nominees at the recent Military Spouse Appreciation ceremony. Nominees, left to right: Jennifer Mathis, Kelly Pacella, Jessica Porras, Staff Sgt. Trasey Roby and Norma Young. Six of the 11 nominees were not available for photo.

WARRIOR

FROM PAGE 1

one of two persons representing YPG's Airborne Test Force in the competition. Originally from Oregon, he prepared for the competition during normal physical training periods but was unable to perform extra preparation due to the hectic test schedule.

"This has definitely been a grueling and stressful competition," he remarked, "for there are a wide variety of hard chargers at YPG. I personally wish I had more time to specifically prepare, but we had many 12 hour workdays that saw me doing parachute drops."



Command Sgt. Major Forbes Daniels announced the winners of the best warrior competition later that day after results were tabulated: Staff Sgt. Ian Dimmick and Spec. Joshua Hollingsworth.

"We live for completions like this," said Dielanderos. "This is what Soldiers do. Others might enjoy going on fishing trips for recreation, but this is like fishing for us."



Each Soldier in the competition performed a number of repetitions with a medicine ball, among numerous other physical fitness activities.

Staff Sgt. Travis Loomis grimaces as he performs one physical challenge after another within the fitness center. All entrants huffed and puffed from the exertion.

PHOTOS BY CHUCK WULLENJOHN



Top: An entrant deals with a wounded buddy, trying to save his life before it is too late. In this scenario, the mannequin lost the ability to breathe.

Soldiers performed a number of tasks in the competition, from fitness challenges to battlefield first aid. Here, a simulated wounded Soldier is readied for movement to an evacuation center.

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Command Sgt. Maj. Forbes Daniels bids farewell

By Yolie Canales

Seventy-five members of the workforce attended the farewell luncheon in honor of YPG's

Command Sgt. Maj. Forbes Daniels, who will be departing in late May.

Daniels, a native of Guyana, South America, and a 28 year veteran of the Army, came to YPG in 2008 after a 14 month tour of duty in Iraq with the 4th Stryker Brigade Combat Team-Surge Brigade, where he spent his days with engineers conducting route

clearance for IEDs.

Accompanied by his wife and daughter, they quietly made YPG their home and enjoyed the community at large.

Most recently, Daniels accepted responsibility for a position in the 3rd Sustainment Brigade, Third Infantry Division at Fort Stewart, Ga., where he will be stationed until he departs for a tour of duty to Afghanistan.

Numerous tokens of appreciation were presented, some of which were comical. Numerous comments dealt

with his "serious" demeanor, which meant few photos showing him smiling were taken in past years. Although he expressed personal regret at departing YPG, he was a happy man at the luncheon who enjoyed the outpouring of good spirits. See the accompanying photo...

Thanking everyone for attending the luncheon, Command Sgt. Maj. Forbes Daniels smiles effusively, a facial expression many were seldom able to see. Good luck to you, Command Sgt. Maj. Daniels.

PHOTO BY CHUCK WULLENJOHN



Safety Tips around snakes on installation

By Yolie Canales

As the weather begins to warm, many venomous creatures begin to crawl out of the woodwork, in particular snakes. They are part of

our ecological system. In fact, several have already been spotted around work areas.

The YPG Safety Office is asking that everyone, "dust off" your plan of action and put it into place (i.e.,

supervisors ensure it's part of your daily safety briefing; workers ensure you survey your work areas, under vehicle, tool boxes, etc.).

If you spot a snake close enough to a building, vehicles and such, please ensure you call Facilities Management Services Incorporated (FSI), ext. 3005 (help desk) for removal of the snake. FSI personnel are trained to handle snake

removals. After duty hours, contact the Directorate of Emergency Services at ext. 2720. They will make arrangements for removal.

Listed are websites about snakes in the Arizona desert: <http://www.azgfd.gov/wc/arizona-rattlesnakes.shtml> and <http://www.desertusa.com/animal.html#repamph>.

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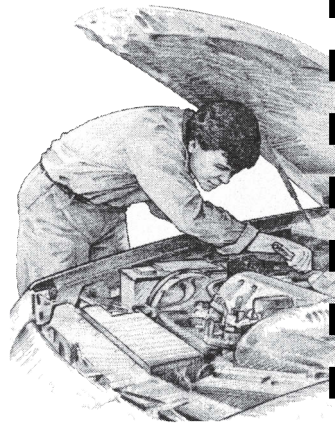
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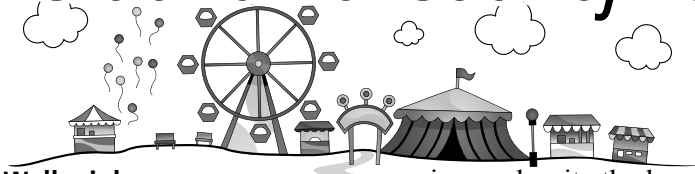
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A reminder to the workforce: Be aware of your surrounding work areas. Snakes are out looking for a cool place to hangout. If you spot one during duty hours, leave it alone and call ext. 3005. If you spot one after duty hours, call ext. 2720.

LOANED PHOTO

YPG at Yuma County Fair



By Chuck Wullenjohn

Organizations throughout the Yuma community religiously take part in the Yuma County Fair each year, so what's the big deal with Yuma Proving Ground taking part in 2012?

The answer is that the proving ground was typically involved in the fair during its early years, exhibiting military hardware on several occasions. For some reason, however, this involvement ceased by the mid-1960's. Individual volunteers continued to play important roles as advisors, 4H club leaders and entrants, but official participation by the proving ground dropped by the wayside.

It remained that way until this year, the fair's 60th anniversary. Yuma Proving Ground set-up and staffed a booth inside the fair's commercial building that included photos, artwork painted by Soldiers, an actual unmanned aircraft frequently tested at YPG, and more. We even displayed the three helmets worn by Soldiers during the 20th century and gave people the opportunity to try them on. This proved quite a drawing card and those helmets must have been put on hundreds of heads! The booth was located near the cinnamon bun people, which presented a challenge to YPG workers, who didn't want to put on pounds by eating too many.

Yuma Proving Ground was proud to take part in the fair and hopes to return next year. Our participation proved quite an educational experience, for it enabled proving ground officials to meet one-on-one with a vast cross section of people in the community to both share information and listen to comments. The YPG staffers truly enjoyed the

experience, despite the long hours (the typical day ended at 11 p.m.), and look forward to 2013.

Another lesson-learned relates to the large number of YPGers who played largely unsung, but important roles that contributed to the fair's success. Grant Ware, Director of YPG's Air Combat Systems test directorate, spent hours helping out with lambs. Dan Daley, a computer expert who deals with technical issues most of us can't even understand, is a 4H advisor working with teams of youngsters breeding rabbits. He attended the fair each day.

Combat vehicle driver Sam Deckard drove a 1971 Oldsmobile in the fair's annual demolition derby and came out on top among 14 competitors. Others participated by entering wood carvings, paintings and photographs.

For young people who exhibit animals, such as rabbits, auctions take place in the final days of the fair. Rabbits originally purchased for \$25 go for sums in the hundreds of dollars. In a conversation with rabbit expert Dan Daley, he explained the non-monetary payment an adult volunteer receives from working with young people.

"All the money goes to the kids," he said with a smile. "My pay is the satisfaction I've gathered along the way."

That's a great sentiment. U.S. Army Yuma Proving Ground takes off its collective hat to the many people in the community who work with America's young people around the year. You are creating a better tomorrow by providing excellent role models today. Military spouses recognized as key to Army success.

THE OUTPOST

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VIEWPOINTS

For this viewpoint, we asked members of the workforce their recollections of their first days on the job at YPG.



James Clisset
Test Officer

I came to YPG from Florida for my interview. Once I had the job, most of my first days were spent sitting at a desk reading manual after manual about standard operating procedures while waiting to get computer access. I think the process has been improved since then, and it got more fun after a few weeks.

Dave Horn
Branch Chief, NACCITEC

Back in 1985, with \$2000 and an old rusty 1973 Chevy Nova with no air conditioning, my wife and I decided to leave Minnesota and head west to seek our fortunes. The day that we got to Yuma, it was 114°, a temperature we didn't know existed on the face of the earth. I showed up at YPG, which except for the ROC was mostly a collection of old tin buildings, wearing a tie. I no longer have the tie, the old rusty Nova or the wife.



Lorrain Cook

Test Measurement Diagnostic Equipment Support Center Chief

I came here from Midland, Texas, when I got a call telling me I had a job in Yuma, I had to look for it on a map. The civilian personnel office was where the Cactus Café is now, and I was sworn in there. I had no idea any of this was going to happen and didn't know what I had gotten into. After my first day, I wrote a letter to my folks describing my whole experience, and it was hilarious. YPG grew on me, though.



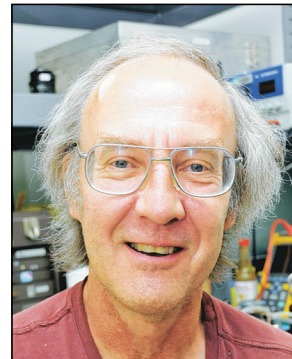
Frank Anderson
Test Officer

I thought it was very exciting. It was something new and different after having been in uniform for 20 years, and I got to work on things like the Crusader. I had a great boss, rewarding work and life was good. Being downrange in the elements meant a much more casual dress code than I was accustomed to. It's hard to believe it has been 11 years already.



Dave Turek
Electronic Technician

I'm from Green Bay, Wis., and after a year of college and a camera repair course, I went to a career fair and said I wanted to work somewhere that is warm. They said, 'Oh, have we got a place for you!' I got here in January 1974 and it was like a Wisconsin summer. My directions were to drive down Highway 95 and look for the big guns, which I thought was unusual, and I didn't realize it was 25 miles outside of town. I had no idea I would still be here all these years later, but I fell in love with the place and have no intention of leaving.



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SAFETY CORNER

Be aware of motorcyclists on the road

May is Motorcycle Safety Month and is part of the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration's (NHTSA) national initiative designed to encourage drivers of all other kinds of vehicles and motorcyclists to "share the road" with each other.

NHTSA offers the following safety awareness tips:

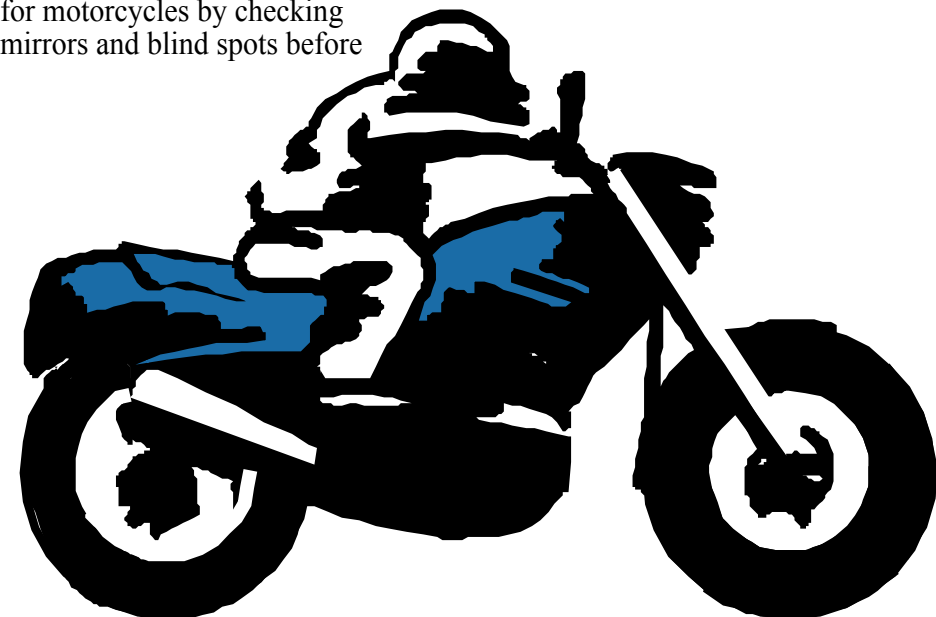
- Road users are reminded to never drive, bicycle, or walk while distracted.
- Allow a motorcyclist a full lane width - the motorcycle needs the room to maneuver safely.
- Because motorcycles are small, they can be difficult for other road users to see them, or judge their speed and distance as they approach.
- Always signal your intentions before changing lanes or merging with traffic. This allows motorcyclists to anticipate traffic flow and find a safe lane position.
- Because of its smaller size, a motorcyclist can be hidden in a vehicle's blind spot. Always check for motorcycles by checking mirrors and blind spots before

entering or leaving a lane of traffic and at intersections.

- Don't be fooled by a flashing turn signal on a motorcycle - motorcycle signals may not be self-canceling and motorcyclists sometimes forget to turn them off. Wait to be sure the rider is going to turn before you proceed.

- Remember that road conditions that are minor annoyances to motorists can pose major hazards to motorcyclists. Motorcyclist may change speed or adjust position within a lane suddenly in reaction to road and traffic conditions such as potholes, gravel, wet or slippery surfaces, pavement seams, railroad crossings, and grooved pavement.

- Allow more distance between you and the motorcyclist so he has enough time to maneuver or stop in an emergency. In dry conditions, motorcyclist can stop more quickly than cars. For more information visit the NHTSA website at: www.nhtsa.gov/Safety/Motorcycles.



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Advanced Ram Air Personnel

By Mark Schauer

Dominance of the air is vital for military success, and for more than 50 years YPG has conducted testing on the most cutting edge cargo and personnel parachutes the Army relies on to maintain this superiority.

Currently, testers from the Air Delivery branch of YPG's Air Combat Systems Test Directorate are putting the Advanced Ram Air Parachute System (ARAPS) through its paces in YPG's more than 2,000 square miles of restricted airspace over isolated drop zones, and feel the system is a major advancement in the personnel parachute world.

"The purpose of this parachute is to replace the currently fielded MC-4, which has been around since the 1980s," said Keith Allen, test officer. "It has served its purpose for the freefall community, but the ARAPS has a number of advanced capabilities."

In addition to their own body weight and personal gear, parachute designers consider that jumpers may also be carrying heavy weaponry or equipment to be used for the benefit of an entire unit- a heavy mortar tube and plate, for instance, or components for a radar system. The MC-4 can safely support a maximum weight of 360 pounds, whereas the ARAPS system is expected to support 450 pounds. This improvement is

significant in itself, but the ARAPS has an even more exciting change to offer.

"One of the key characteristics is that the ARAPS is deployable in both freefall mode and static mode," said Allen. "This means you can deploy the system with personnel who are not Military Freefall (MFF) qualified."

Small unit insertion, such as Special Forces teams, have been done in Afghanistan, and now the ARAPS will allow static line jumpers the ability to deploy with MFF qualified parachutists, a capability that has heretofore not existed in the Army for this type of jumper. Additionally, the new parachute boasts a higher glide ratio, which means Soldiers can stay aloft longer and jump further away

from the intended target.

"The high glide ratio keeps your aircraft that much further away from enemy ground fire and allows for a more covert insertion of troops," said Allen. "It is a big advantage for Soldiers."

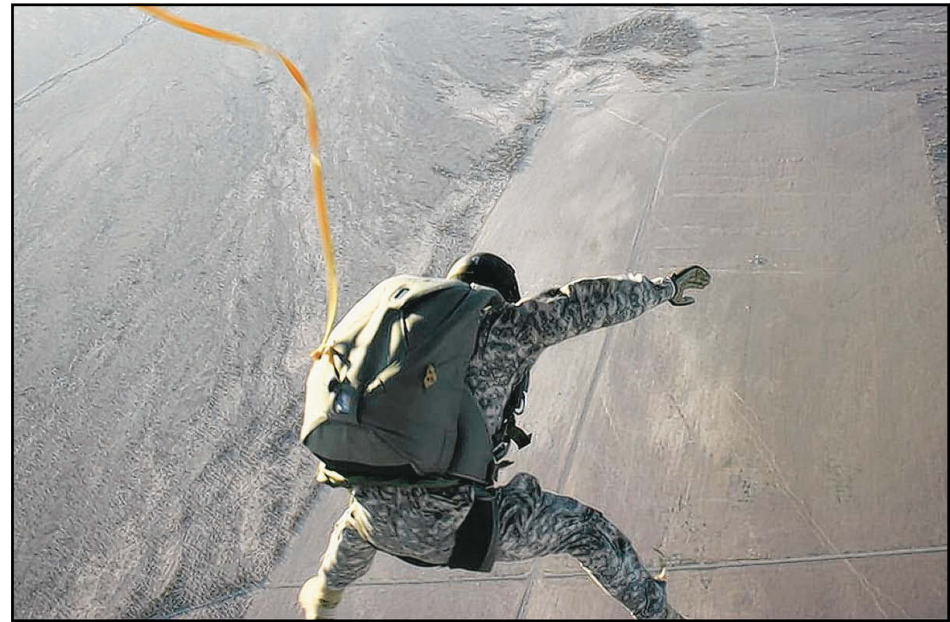
YPG's testing includes over 300 jumps with the system, utilizing both mannequins and live jumpers from YPG's Airborne Test Force. The significant difference in deploying the ARAPS in static line mode is the exit technique, which requires extensive training. Although deploying ram air canopies via static line is not a new concept, it is new for the Army. The Air Delivery test team had to develop a training plan along with the developmental test plan to train test parachutists in order to safely perform static line jumps with the ARAPS.

The ARAPS was tested in freefall mode as well, with openings at both low and high altitudes. YPG testers have also conducted overload



The developmental testing of the ARAPS at YPG has also included jumps with heavy, instrumented mannequins dropped from a C-130 aircraft off of a mechanically-operated rack. Here, YPG personnel load a ready-to-go rack onto a K loader prior to a test jump.

PHOTO BY MARK SCHAUER



With perennially clear skies and more than 2,000 square miles of restricted airspace over isolated drop zones, YPG is an ideal location for testing all manner of parachute systems, including the new ARAPS, as seen here.

LOANED PHOTO

Parachute tested at YPG

testing on both the main and reserve canopies that comprise the system, seeking to push both beyond their typical capabilities. Testing the system's capabilities within its normal limits is just as important, however.

"The human body can withstand a high amount of gravitational force for a short period of time, but sustained forces can cause a great deal of damage," said Allen. "We need to monitor that very closely during tests to ensure it meets the specifications."

Testers do this by attaching data-gathering instrumentation to the rings that connect a jumper's harness to the parachute's risers and canopy, which

allows them to monitor the jumpers' progress in realtime from a mission control room miles away from the landing zone. The hundreds of jumps are done with various jump weights and doing a wide-ranging regimen of turns and maneuvers a combat jumper would be likely to use. Despite the data-intensiveness, the test is well ahead of schedule, in part due to its prior use by both foreign militaries and other branches of the American Armed Forces.

"Having this flexibility has saved the Army a lot of money and we've done the testing in a very short amount of time," said Allen. "This system is a big force multiplier.



YPG has recently conducted more than 300 test jumps of the Advanced Ram Air Parachute System (ARAPS), a major advancement in the personnel parachute world that is deployable in both freefall mode and static mode. This means static line jumpers will now have the ability to deploy with freefall qualified parachutists, a capability that has heretofore not existed in the Army for this type of jumper.

LOANED PHOTO

The ARAPS has a higher glide ratio than its predecessor the MC-4, which means airborne Soldiers can stay aloft longer and jump further away from the intended target. "The high glide ratio keeps your aircraft that much further away from enemy ground fire and allows for a more covert insertion of troops," said Keith Allen, test officer.

LOANED PHOTO

From spring festivals to career days, YPG is there

By Yolie Canales

As the school year comes to an end, several districts held career day festivities and spring festivals for students. The career days were held to bring awareness to youngsters of the many career options available to them as they prepare to graduate. Numerous state, federal government and county agencies were invited to participate and Yuma Proving Ground was one of them.

The Yuma Proving Ground Public Affairs Office took the lead to showcase the careers available in the civilian and military fields when the request came in from Gadsden Elementary School, 4th Ave. Jr. High School and Price Elementary School in April and May.

At each school, PAO staff set-up a table display consisting of informational brochures, World War I/World War II/modern military helmets and Meals-Ready-To-Eat samples. At Gadsden Elementary School, over 200 students from kindergarten through eighth grade, parents and teachers visited and asked hundreds of questions pertaining to the mission of YPG. In fact, many were able to relate to the location of where YPG was just by the "big

see **CAREER** page 12

Yolie Canales, public affairs specialist, answers questions from youngsters who visited the Yuma Proving Ground table display at the recent spring festival held at Gadsden Elementary School.

PHOTO BY MARK SCHAUER



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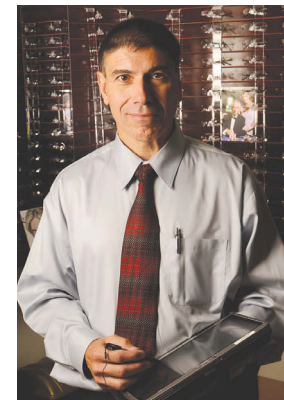
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About Dr. Aiello



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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CAREER

FROM PAGE 10

guns” on the highway they see as they zoom by, but did not know what YPG is all about.

One of the biggest attractions was the military helmets that were tried on by dozens of youngsters. One nine year-old student was excited as he tried one of the helmets and said that, after graduating from college, he plans to join the Air Force as a pilot. His parents confirmed his comment and said, “This is all he talks about. He is fascinated with anything that has to do with the military. Our son is extremely smart in school and we strongly support him in his career plans.”

At 4th Ave, Jr. High School, three engineers were on hand to provide information to students seeking a career in engineering. Volunteering were Paola Romero, Quang Ho and Pierre Bourque. Many questions were asked by the kids, such as the type of classes they need to be an engineer right down to the money they can make in the field. Staff Sgt. Maikeld Quarles from YPG’s Airborne Test Force was also present to provide information about the Army, especially, in the airborne field. He set-up a display with the equipment all parachute jumpers use when jumping out of airplanes.

YPG’s engineers had a blast



Children take advantage of the opportunity to explore the inside of a Humvee at the Price School carnival. Supervising the attraction is Col. Reed Young, (back to camera), YPG commander, as Brian Young (freelance photographer) takes photos of the Humvee.

PHOTOS BY MARK SCHAUER

with the students providing answers to their inquisitive questions. “It always makes me feel good when I can give back to my community and volunteering in events such as this one is always rewarding,” said Ho. “For me,” said Romero with a gracious smile, “If I can inspire just ‘one’ than I’ve done my job and that’s exactly what I’ve done today. I inspired one young lady to follow the

engineering field.”

The final event was held at YPG’s Price Elementary School where a carnival was held for students and parents. The event included games, food and prizes, plus a Humvee which Col. Reed Young, YPG commander, had the honor of manning as the children were able see up-close, touch and climb in as they pretended driving

and maneuvering the gunner turret, PAO’s table display and an ATF parachute display.

“It was a pleasure and honor to participate in these events,” said Col. Reed Young. “Price School is a real jewel on YPG and a tremendous capability. It is great for the kids and great for the community.”



Price School teachers (above left photo) participate in the “pie-in-the-face” throwing activity. In this photo, Pierre Bourke, Paola Romero, Quang Ho and Staff Sgt. Maikeld Quarles, mingle with students at the 4th Ave. Jr. High School Career Fair.

Army wants to start replacing M113s in 2015

By Paul McLeary

The Army is looking to begin production of its Armored Multi-Purpose Vehicle (AMPV) between fiscal 2015 and 2017, the service told contractors during an AMPV industry day in Michigan to update vendors on the effort to replace 3,800 Vietnam-era M113 Armored Personnel Carriers in heavy brigade combat teams.

The Army is looking for 3,014 vehicles, while a replacement for echelons above brigade will be decided later and requirements may change, officials said.

The vehicle's average unit manufacturing cost should be \$1 million to \$1.7 million. That number has dropped since February, when the service's ground combat systems chief, Scott Davis, told reporters that the Army was looking at \$2.4 million, although he said at the time that the Army expected that number to fall.

The AMPV family should have an off-road mobility comparable to M1/M2 Abrams tanks, according to briefing slides, while also offering protection comparable to combat

vehicles "against ... direct fire, indirect fire and underbelly threat." The general purpose vehicle should be designed to carry two crew members and six passengers.

The AMPV has five planned variants: general purpose, mortar carrier, mission command, medical evacuation and medical treatment.

The vehicles will be required to operate on the Army's developmental communications network. The vehicle is scheduled to be deployed to up to eight brigade combat teams later this year.

An analysis of alternatives should be complete by June, with a request for proposals due between the first and third quarters of fiscal 2013, according to information presented at the industry day.

As part of the analysis of alternatives, the Army is considering several current and modified vehicles such as the Bradley; upgraded M113; mine-resistant, ambush-protected vehicle; and the Stryker, as well as "new start developmental vehicles." Those would include the Ground Combat Vehicle or the Joint Light Tactical Vehicle.

BAE Systems and General

Dynamics have signaled their interest in the program, with BAE offering its fleet of Bradley variants, and General Dynamics saying its double V-hulled Stryker, would fit the bill.

Navistar Defense has also said it is interested in the program, possibly in partnership with another company.

The desire to field a non-developmental solution was made clear in the industry day briefing slides, which emphasized system commonality both across the AMPV fleet and "with other fielded Army systems."

The Army also said the forthcoming request for proposals is "not a mission equipment package development program," and that industry should "leverage existing M113 MEP where possible."

Concern is brewing about the program among some members of Congress. In April, Reps. Todd Platts, R-Pa., and Mark Critz, D-Pa., wrote a letter to Deputy Defense Secretary Ashton Carter to "express our concern about the impending break in the combat vehicle

production base and to propose a program acceleration that may help to partially mitigate this unacceptable situation."

They represent York, home to the BAE Systems plant that makes the Bradley.

The letter was also signed by Rep. Silvestre Reyes, D-Texas. The congressmen said "the AMPV program is virtually an off-the-shelf program for which our existing combat vehicle manufacturers have had working prototypes for as long as three years. We strongly believe that an accelerated acquisition, such as was used to acquire the very successful Interim Armored Vehicle, is ideally suited for the AMPV program."

The Army plans to hold another industry day in August or September, with a pre-solicitation conference after that.

Military and civilians should render honors to the flag

Yuma Proving Ground civilians like Soldiers, must know how to properly render honors to the U.S. flag during reveille and retreat. The reveille ceremony is the signal of the start of the duty day while the retreat ceremony is the signal of the end of the duty day as set by the installation commander, and a ceremony to give respect to the flag.

The retreat ceremony is signaled by the playing of "Retreat" followed by a gun salute and the playing of the "To the color" while the flag is lowered. Some installations may play the national anthem instead.

There are certain courtesies that must be given to encourage discipline and maintain morale among the Soldiers as well as civilians. Though civilians may not be used to it, civilians will

need to support the Soldiers by taking part in the retreat ceremony.

When reveille or retreat is sounded, service members and civilians should render appropriate honors. Per Army Regulation 600-25, at the first note of music, Soldiers who are outdoors should salute the flag. They should hold the salute until the last note of music has been played. Civilians, and military in civilian dress, should stand at attention with their hand over their heart; men should remove their hats and hold them over their left shoulder with their right hands positioned over their heart.

Anyone driving a vehicle, military or civilian, should pull the vehicle over and the driver

see **FLAG** page 14

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FLAG

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and any passengers should exit the vehicle to render honors. In the case of a bus or van, only the senior occupant should exit the vehicle and render honors.

The YPG workforce knows that reveille goes off at 6 a.m. and retreat at 5 p.m. By 5 p.m. most everyone is hurrying out of YPG for a number

of good and viable reasons, however, take note that retreat takes place at this time and we ask, to render the respect our U.S. flag deserves.

If you do not know the location of the flag, face the sound of the music. For more information, see AR 600-25.

Brand new parking for Bldg. 2100!

Building 2100 occupants anxiously await the completion of the parking lot renovation. With just two more important phases left to do on the project, laying of the asphalt and the striping to be added, building occupants will soon enjoy the brand new parking area. The 45 plus year parking lot was in desperate need of renovation and upgrade for quite some time. Time and weather conditions had created many cracks and small potholes in the asphalt which were quite dangerous as people walked on it. The new parking area will now accommodate the handicap with four parking spaces, one that will be van accessible as well as, four motorcycle spaces. In addition, a brand new sidewalk as been added so people will have easy access to the entrance of the building. This long awaited project will be very much appreciated by everyone.

PHOTO BY PAO STAFF



Boy Scout leaders train at YPG

Adult leaders being trained to work with scouts in the Boy Scouts of America program visited YPG for overnight campouts on two weekends in April. About 50 people, mostly from Yuma, were trained to lead the over 1000 boy and cub scouts in the county. Shower facilities were provided to campers at the fitness center.

PHOTO BY CHUCK WULLENJOHN



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