

THE OUTPOST

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

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Pilots, mechanics and engineers train for upcoming test



Instructor John Ehm (right) critiques test officer Bill Packham's performance during a shallow water egress exercise as pilot Rob Rutledge looks on. "Test officers need to know what personnel supporting the mission are going through," said Packham, which is why he participated in the training.

PHOTOS BY MARK SCHAUER

By Mark Schauer

YPG personnel work hard, but it isn't often that they spend an entire day working up a "SWET."

The acronym stands for Shallow Water Egress

Training (SWET), and the main mobile SWET item is an ordinary seat supported by a metal tube frame. When dunked in a swimming pool with a person occupying it, the device simulates the disorienting experience of

being in an aircraft that has just landed in a body of water.

"An aircraft as it hits the water is likely to turn upside down," said Robert Schultz, aviation safety officer. "So you've just had a crash and now you're in cold water,

upside down. The difference between surviving or not could be the training you've had and being able to execute it."

Five YPG pilots and three helicopter mechanics participated in the training in preparation for an upcoming sensor test that will involve flying simulated missions over water. Rather than travel on temporary duty to attend the training elsewhere, an instructor came to YPG, where he led a full morning class on the ins and outs of surviving a wet landing.

"It doesn't have to be a crash landing," said John Ehm, instructor. "It could be a water landing in any capacity, controlled or otherwise."

Sitting in with the pilots was Bill Packham, Aviation test officer, who was also the first to get wet inside the simulator.

"Test officers need to know what personnel supporting the mission are going through," said Packham. "It helps us

with our safety briefings to ensure everyone knows all of the safety items. This is one of the steps we are taking for the safety portion of this whole test."

For the water portion of the training, which was held at the large outdoor swimming pool in YPG's Main Administrative Area, participants wore the same gear they would wear if flying: flight suit, vest, helmet, and boots. The students started each scenario with arms crossed over their chest and chin tucked in as if they were about to impact the water from above.

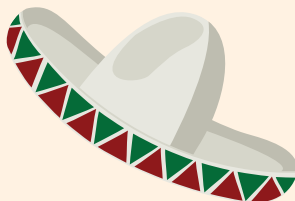
"If you don't survive the impact, there isn't a whole heck of a lot else to talk about," said Ehm.

With assistance from the pilots awaiting their turns, Ehm said, "ditch, ditch, ditch," then overturned the SWET device leaving the student upside down in the

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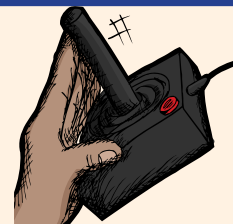
Hispanic Heritage month a success!

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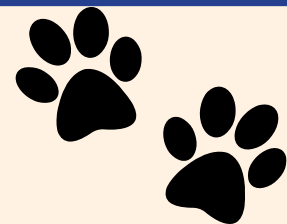
Viewpoints: Your favorite video game growing up?

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The 'Real McCoy' Army dog handler

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Georgia native misses greenery, trees and flowers

By Lucy Rivera

Changes in federal government civilian careers come and go, not only when an individual is hired by a particular agency that may be located hundreds of miles away from his or her home, but also in required duties and responsibilities.

Ethel Bonner, human resource specialist in YPG's Civilian Personnel Advisory Center, made her first change when moving from her home in Georgia to pursue a career in the human resources field. Bonner says, "The personnel field is an ever changing career. Things don't remain the same for long. Change is part of it, so you are always learning and researching to stay on top of things."

Dealing with change is part of her daily routine. "Having to keep up with laws and regulation changes in order to meet standards and requirements is a challenge," she said.

Bonner came to YPG five months ago from Fort Huachuca as lead human resource specialist and says one of her major duties is helping managers throughout the proving ground meet their individual needs. "We explore different options to help managers accomplish what they are trying to achieve," she said, "I find it rewarding when I find solutions to issues or problems." She also assists management with attracting and selecting qualified people for open positions, and classifying positions (i.e. determining correct titles, series and grades of positions.)

With a bachelor's degree in



Ethel Bonner, human resource specialist in Yuma Proving Ground's Civilian Personnel Advisory Center, is enjoying her time at YPG. PHOTO BY MARK SCHAUER

business administration and a master's degree in management with a concentration in human resources, Bonner says she owes her success to the advice and encouragement her parents provided. "My parents instilled in me early in life that greatness was within us and it is our responsibility to pursue excellence."

One of the things she enjoys best about working at YPG is "the compressed work schedule and the opportunity to further develop my skills."

When Bonner made the decision to relocate to Arizona, she left behind the greenery that was so prolific in her hometown. "I wanted to be closer to my family in California, though I miss the beautiful landscape," she explained. In her free time, she enjoys bowling, movies, reading, traveling and playing with her dog, Koko.

YPG One of Four Honored Army Installations

By Mark Schauer

YPG is the Army leader in testing, and is equally notable for the quality of its Family, Morale, Welfare and Education (FMWR) programs.

The latest testimony of this comes in the form of the 2012 Award for FMWR Exemplary Workforce Development Award presented by the Maj. Gen. Robert M. Joyce Installation Management Academy. YPG was one of four Army installations worldwide to receive the honor, which was presented to FMWR workers in a recent ceremony at the YPG travel camp.

From educational and social service agencies to organized sports and entertainment, FMWR is responsible for virtually every

community-oriented activity for the more than 500 people who call YPG home. The directorate's employees run over 20 different facilities, care for 75-80 children daily and serve about 1,000 meals per day to residents, visitors, and employees.

"Having served at other installations across the US and overseas, I have to tell you the programs we offer here are world class," said Gordon Rogers, YPG deputy garrison manager, at the ceremony. "The most important measure of this is when customers recognize us, and our FMWR facilities are consistently at 90 to 95 percent customer satisfaction. The comments we receive aren't just, 'this is good,' they are, 'this is the best I've ever seen.'"



Only four Army installations received the 2012 Award for Family and Morale, Welfare and Recreation Exemplary Workforce Development, and Yuma Proving Ground was one. The award recognizes family and MWR organizations that have demonstrated strong commitment through training, coaching and mentoring, as well as other programs for professional development, and was accepted by deputy garrison manager Gordon Rogers and FMWR director Garrett Smith in a recent ceremony. Also in photo are Heather Mactavisch (l) and Dorothy Claiborne-Carr.

PHOTO BY MARK SCHAUER

Next Outpost deadline is noon

October 4th

Sexual Assault Hotline:
920-3104 or **328-3224**

Report Domestic Violence:
328-2720 or **328-3224**

Voluntary Leave Transfer Program update

Yuma Proving Ground has members of its workforce who are in need of leave donation assistance. Leave donations as small as one hour are appreciated. We can only accept donations from Appropriated Fund civil service employees.

The Voluntary Leave Transfer Program (VLTP) is a way to donate annual leave to co-workers who are experiencing a medical emergency (their own or a family member's emergency) and do not have enough leave to cover their absences. These employees have used or will use all sick and annual leave before being eligible to receive donations.

YPG currently has several employees on the VLTP recipient list:

- Castello, TerRee, Garrison, left ankle surgery.

- Audra Lemme, Mission RM, infant son is suffering health complications.
- Alysha Miller, Mission Plans & Ops, maternity.
- MJ Nance, YTC, care of elderly mother-in-law due to injury and illness resulting in death.
- Carlos Padilla, YTC, environmental allergy and bilateral lung densities.
- Gabriela Rios (Ochoa), Mission, maternity leave.
- James Robinson, YTC, cancer surgery with follow-up radiation and Chemotherapy.
- Nathan Smith, NEC, family member medical emergency.

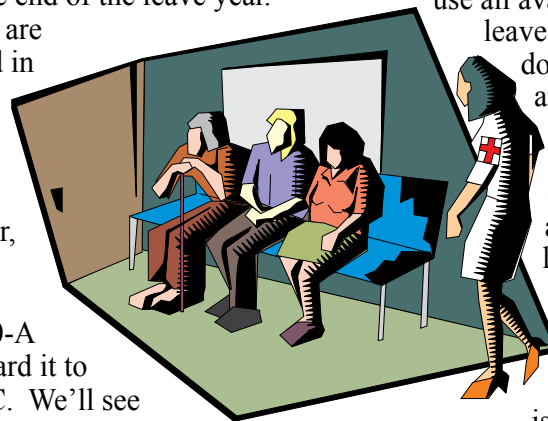
Any donation will be appreciated

by the recipient. You can donate as little as one hour of annual leave or as much as one half of what you accrue in a leave year, although you must be able to use "use or lose" annual leave before the end of the leave year.

If you are interested in donating annual leave to your co-worker, complete Optional Form 630-A and forward it to the CPAC. We'll see the donation gets to the appropriate recipient. Please note, CPAC can only accept donations that indicate to whom the hours are to be

given - please indicate who should be given your hours. You can split the donations, as long as donations are in full-hour increments.

Just to recap: The recipients must use all available sick and annual leave before they receive donations - donors aren't funding a new vacation plan for recipients. Donors can only donate annual leave; sick leave is not eligible to be donated. If the recipient doesn't use all leave donated, that leftover leave is divided up among donors and returned to them.



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Fire Prevention Week : have 2 ways out

It's 3 a.m. You and your family are sound asleep and awake to the beeping smoke alarm. You are tired and confused from the effects of the smoke. You know you need to get to safety, but when you head for the front door, you find that escape route is blocked by fire that is spreading by the second. What do you do?

While this scenario is one I hope you never have to encounter, the statistics tell us that many people do every day. According to the nonprofit National Fire Protection Association (NFPA), one home structure fire was reported every 85 seconds in 2010. That added up to 369,500 home structure fires, which caused 13,350 injuries and 2,640 deaths. We also know that most fatal fires kill one or two people. However, in 2010, 19 home fires killed five or more people, resulting in 101 deaths.

The numbers are scary, but there is something you can do to help ensure

your family's safety should a fire break out in your home: Have Two Ways Out!

Yuma Proving Ground Fire Department is teaming up with NFPA during Fire Prevention Week, October 7-13, 2012, to urge residents to "Have Two Ways Out!" This year's theme focuses on the importance of fire escape planning and practice.

Only one-third of Americans have both developed and practiced a home fire escape plan. And of the three-quarters of Americans who do have an escape plan, less than half actually practiced it. As we saw in the scenario above, fire is unpredictable. Seconds and minutes can mean the difference between life and death. We want to ensure that Yuma Proving Ground residents know what to do if a fire breaks out in their home. Preparation is an important part of being able to deal with an emergency and it is crucial you take steps to

prepare your family for the potential of a home fire by having an escape plan and practicing it.

Although preparing for the unexpected is difficult, reviewing the information below and taking action based on it to plan for a fire could save lives. Yuma Proving Ground Fire Department recommends the following tips for planning your family's escape:

If you have children and want to make this a family activity

- Make a map of your home. Mark a door and a window that can be used to get out of every room.
- Choose a meeting place outside in front of your home. This is where everyone can meet once they've escaped. Draw a picture of your outside meeting place on your escape plan.
- Write the emergency telephone number for the fire department on your escape plan.
- Sound the smoke alarm and practice your escape drill with everyone living in your home.
- Keep your escape plan on the refrigerator and practice the drill twice a year or whenever anyone in your home celebrates a birthday.

If your family is all adults:

- Walk through you home and identify two

ways out of each room.

- Choose a meeting place outside in front of your home. This is where everyone can meet once they've escaped.
- Make sure everyone knows the emergency number for your local fire department.
- Practice your escape drill twice a year.

The Yuma Proving Ground Fire Department will be hosting an open house at Fire Station # 2 (building 611) on Main Post, during Oct 9th thru Oct 13th from 1600hrs to 1900hrs during Fire Prevention Week to promote "Have Two Ways Out!" Through these educational, family-oriented activities, residents can learn more about the importance of fire escape planning and practice, as well as the power of prevention.

To find out more about Fire Prevention Week programs and activities in Yuma Proving Ground, please contact the Yuma Proving Ground Fire Department at 328 2699. To learn more about "Have Two Ways Out!" visit NFPA's Web site at www.firepreventionweek.org.

Sincerely,
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Fire Prevention Staff

Proving Ground SPECIALS!

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 Phone: (928) 328-6143/6189 or DSN 899-6143.
 Visit our website at: www.yuma.army.mil
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Commander: Col. Reed F. Young
Public Affairs Officer: Chuck Wullenjohn
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Technical Editor, Cold Regions Test Center: Clara Zachgo



The 'Real McCoy' Army dog handler teaches from experience

By Mark Schauer

Amidst soaring mountains in the Urozgan Province of Afghanistan, Staff Sgt. Lee McCoy's military working dog indicated the presence of an improvised explosive device. That this would happen in the notorious "IED Alley" wasn't unusual, but this specific stretch of road had been thoroughly searched and cleared after an intense firefight less than two weeks before.

"To return home safely, you have to trust your dog," McCoy said, and on this occasion he halted the convoy so the suspicious area could be searched once again, a painstaking and dreary process.

"Sure enough, there were four 107mm rockets strapped together," recalled McCoy. "It would have

disintegrated the first truck if it had hit it. That was a good day."

As the first Army instructor attached to the Marine Corps' military working dog training course at Yuma Proving Ground, McCoy brings a wealth of experience to the position. Though he has been in the Army for 20 years, McCoy came to the working dog handling mission after spending most of his first 14 years of service as a military policeman (MP).

"I know I've saved some lives," said McCoy with a smile. "They don't remember you, though, they remember the dog. They say, 'that dog is great,' but I think, 'I was there, too!'"

A native of Red Oak, Okla., McCoy excelled in a variety of sports in

see **McCOY** page 10



With 20 years of experience and multiple deployments overseas, Staff Sgt. Lee McCoy (right) brings a wealth of experience to his position as Army instructor in the Inter-Service Advanced Skills Canine course at YPG. Here, McCoy counsels Spc. Ryan Castonguay during a recent training exercise.

PHOTO BY MARK SCHAUER

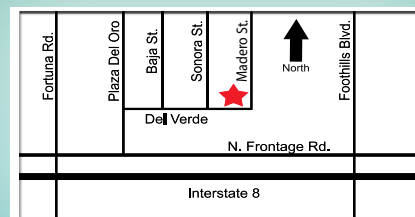
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PILOTS

FROM COVER

water. As Ehm watched underwater, each student had to push out a plexiglass door hanging on one side of the SWET device, unbuckle their seat's five-point harness, and push themselves back to the water's surface. As if this wasn't difficult enough, in some scenarios the students had to perform their escape while wearing blacked-out goggles that simulated a nighttime crash. Later test scenarios allowed the student to utilize a small portable emergency breathing apparatus that provided a couple of minutes of air to breathe. "The biggest thing is to go slow and not panic," said Rob Rutledge, pilot. "You'll have plenty of time to escape from underwater.

"This was a very useful training," added Schultz. "Hopefully we'll never need it."



Above, five YPG pilots and three helicopter mechanics participate in shallow water egress training in preparation of a sensor test that involves flying simulated missions over water. Here, pilot Doug Bradford helps test officer Bill Packham with his helmet prior to a training scenario.

Left, pilot Doug Bradford (seated) braces for a simulated impact during the training. "The difference between surviving or not could be the training you've had and being able to execute it," said Robert Schultz, aviation safety officer.

PHOTOS BY MARK SCHAUER

YPG's Hispanic Heritage Month -- another cultural awareness success!



Col. Reed Young, YPG commander, presented certificates of appreciation to committee members. He presented Viviana Lopez a certificate of appreciation for the delicious desserts she made and donated for the luncheon.



neurologist from Houston, Texas and a native of San Luis, Ariz., a token of appreciation for her inspiring speech. She described what it took to reach her goals of becoming a doctor in neurology and specializing in epilepsy.

U.S. ARMY PHOTOS



Smiling is Rocio Fernandez, committee member, as she fills cups of "Horchata," a Mexican beverage, for salsa tasters at the Salsa Tasting contest.



Over 100 people attended the Salsa Tasting contest at the Range Operation Center. There were a total of 12 entries and two winners were selected. First place was taken by Valarie Grimes, while second place went to Ursula Packham.



An assortment of Mexican pastries was provided by the chaplain for everyone's enjoyment during the Hispanic Week observance.



Volunteers and members of the Hispanic Heritage committee are busy serving attendees a good homemade Mexican meal at the luncheon.



Yolie Canales (right) chairperson of the Hispanic committee, explains the meal she is about to demonstrate at the Cooking/Tasting demonstration. Assisting are left to right: Teresa Marchuk, Martha Wright and Juanita Saez. This event was held at Michaels Community Center which drew over 35 people in attendance.

VIEWPOINTS

The graphics were primitive and the gameplay slow, but kids of the 1980s and 1990s loved videogames as much as their modern counterparts. For this nostalgic Viewpoint, we asked members of the workforce, "What was your favorite videogame when you were a kid?"



Carlos Anaya
Test Officer

It was either PacMan or Asteroids on Atari. I still play PacMan, and always get the high scores wherever I go. I only had Atari and the original Nintendo.



Dean Shimizu
Automotive Systems Branch Chief

Mine was Centipede. It was an arcade game where you had to kill the centipede before it killed you. It was a shoot-em-up game. I can't say I ever beat it: I wasn't really a gamer.

Scott Coll
Test Engineer



Captain Skyhawk on the original Nintendo. It was an airplane game where you were in a F14 Tomcat and would shoot stationary tanks and pyramids that shot laser beams. One of the bosses was the Sphinx, if I remember right. I don't know if I ever beat it, but my brother and I would take turns trying to.

Sgt. Lisa Wood
Health Clinic



Mine were the original Super Mario Brothers and Tetris. I like them because it was the first toy that I remember playing with a lot. It just sticks with you. The Legend of Zelda was good, too. I still have an original Nintendo and a Super Nintendo.

Tim Warnock
Carpentry Lead



Mike Tyson's Punch-Out for the original Nintendo. You are Little Mac and you have to fight other boxers leading up to Mike Tyson. Another good one was Track and Field for Nintendo—if you got a spoon and hit both buttons on the controller really fast with it, your player went faster.



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Travel Camp ready for winter visitors

By Lucy Rivera

Hot, dusty, and dry are what many people think of when it comes to Yuma. Little do they know local winter weather is supremely inviting and attracts visitors from all over North America.

The Yuma area has dozens of recreational vehicle parks and thousands of spaces available for winter visitors, one of which is located at Yuma Proving Ground--The Desert Breeze Travel Camp which offers 116 sites and has become a popular winter destination near the Colorado River.

"Many of our visitors stay home for Christmas and then come down to spend three or four months," said Diana Mercer, the travel camp's business manager. "Others simply pass by for a day or two."

At YPG, most travel camp sites have full hook-ups that include water, electric, sewage, wireless internet, and cable. Six sites, however, are for daily or weekly use with only water and electrical hook-ups.

Facilities provided at the camp include showers, a laundromat, and a recreation room which includes pool tables, three computers, and a big screen television. There are lots of activities for winter visitors to enjoy during their stay, such as potluck dinners and bi-monthly dances, visits to YPG facilities like the Heritage Center museum and Coyote Lanes Bowling Alley.

"People are attracted here because of the security the post provides," Mercer said. "Also, the commissary, bowling alley, and Post Exchange are within walking distance. We have nice facilities and people keep coming back. Also, I'm sure the great weather has something to do with it."

How does YPG benefit from the travel camp? For starters, both the direct and indirect revenue generated from the travel camp helps support other Morale Welfare Recreation facilities such as the Cactus Café, Coyote Lanes, and the Post Exchange. "The dollars gained from the travel camp provide a significant



Showing amenities the Desert Breeze Travel Camp offers is Diana Mercer, business manager, who can be reached at 328-3989 for more information regarding the camp sites.

PHOTO BY LUCY RIVERA

cash contribution to the overall success of programs at YPG," said Garret Smith, Family Morale Welfare and Recreation (FMWR) director. It represents about 65 percent of the profit that goes to the FMWR folks funding pool parties and renovations made to the facilities.

"Without the travel camp, YPG's FMWR would lose revenue," said Mercer, "The organization will still make money, just not as much." She added that many travel camp visitors

serve as volunteers at the Post Chapel and Price School.

Reservations are not taken at the travel camp. To stay, a military ID is required along with a registration form available at the travel camp office. The fees are \$25 per day, \$125 per week, and \$355 per month. Although up to two pets are welcome, some dog breeds are restricted. For more information, contact Diana Mercer at 328-3989.

Safety Corner

Lightning strikes

According to the National Weather Service, dozens of people are killed and hundreds more injured every year by lightning. Sadly, many of these victims were not aware of the danger they faced.

People are killed or seriously injured by severe thunderstorms despite advance warnings. The following information is provided by the Red Cross. During thunderstorms, always remember to:

- Listen to local news for emergency updates. Watch for signs of a storm such as darkening skies,

lightning flashes or increasing wind.

- Postpone outdoor activities if thunderstorms are likely to occur. Many people struck by lightning are not in the area where rain is occurring.

- If a severe thunderstorm warning is issued, take shelter in a substantial building or in a vehicle with the windows closed. Get out of mobile homes that can blow over in high winds.

- If you can hear thunder, you are close enough to be in danger from lightning. If thunder roars,

go indoors. The National Weather Service recommends staying inside for at least 30 minutes after the last thunderclap.

- Avoid electrical equipment and corded telephones. Use battery-powered TVs and radios instead.

- Close shutter windows and outside doors securely. Keep away from windows.

- Do not take a bath, shower or use plumbing.

- If you are driving, try to safely exit the roadway and park. Stay in the vehicle and turn on the

emergency flashers until the heavy rain ends. Avoid touching metal or other surfaces that conduct electricity inside and outside the vehicle.

- If you are outside and cannot reach a safe building, avoid high ground; water; tall, isolated trees; and metal objects such as fences or bleachers. Picnic shelters, dugouts and sheds are not safe.

Additionally, the Range SOP-1000 sec. 14, provides information on safety awareness.

October, Mental health Awareness Month

*PTSD course offered at Arizona
Western College*

An Arizona Western College mental health course coincides with Mental Health Awareness Month, which is observed throughout October.

The college is offering a non-credit, Continuing Education course in Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder on Tuesday, October 16 from 8:30 to 11:30 a.m. at the college's Entrepreneurial Center, 1351 S. Redondo Center Drive in Yuma.

Course participants will acquire a greater understanding of the definition of PTSD, gain tools for assessing the disorder, and become educated on the various modalities for treating it.

There is a \$39 fee for the course, which will be facilitated by Troy L. Love, LCSW, PHR.

Participants will earn three clock hours of Behavioral Health Continuing Education as well as a Certification of Completion upon successful completion of the course.

To register, please stop by the Entrepreneurial Center, visit www.azwestern.edu/continuing, or call (928) 317-6150. Seating is limited, so participants should call this number to reserve a seat, regardless of their method of registration. AWC accepts cash, check, Visa, Mastercard, and Discover payments. However, the college does not accept American Express.

For more information, please contact AWC Continuing Education at continuinged@azwestern.edu or (928) 317-6150.



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FROM PAGE 5

high school, but his prowess on the football gridiron and baseball diamond couldn't keep him off the path to delinquency.

"I was a little hoodlum," said McCoy. "My uncle who was in the Army told me to join the military or I would end up in a lot of trouble, and it was the best decision I ever made. I wouldn't trade it for the world."

After graduating high school, McCoy enlisted in the Army and underwent basic training at Fort McClellan, Ala. He has deployed to combat areas multiple times in his career: to Cuba in support of operations in Haiti in 1994, to Bosnia in 1995, to Iraq in 2003 and to Afghanistan on tours in 2007-8 and 2010-11. In all but the tours to Afghanistan he served as an MP, protecting refugees, patrolling borders, and training civilian police officers during Operation Iraqi Freedom. He had his share of excitement on duty in peacetime, too.

"An MP deals with all of the situations a civilian police officer does, from dog bites and shoplifters to high-speed car chases and

shootings," he said. "The only difference is you're dealing primarily with military personnel."

Following his deployment to Iraq, McCoy was encouraged by a superior to try his hand at becoming a military working dog handler. He enjoyed the job, and even came to YPG for working dog training prior to deploying to Afghanistan, little knowing that he would one day return as an instructor.

During his second deployment, McCoy's working dog suffered a career-ending injury. He was able to adopt the dog, and after being sent home early was offered the new Army instructor position at the Marine Corps working dog course at YPG. He arrived last December from Fort Leonard Wood, and has enjoyed the experience.

"It's probably the best thing I've done," said McCoy. "It's something I like. Training Soldiers is a great time, and working with dogs and Soldiers is even better, especially when you see them go from nothing to something."

Through the blazing heat of

summer, McCoy can be seen every day in YPG's mock Middle Eastern villages and at points on the range, carefully watching working dog teams under training and giving them the benefit of his experience. He enjoys working with students that come from multiple branches of the military, as well as with fellow instructors from the Marine Corps.

"You could not find a more top-notch group of non-commissioned officers," McCoy said. "They are outstanding to work with."

These days, McCoy is approaching retirement and looking forward to spending more time with his wife and their seven children. An avid hunter and fisherman, he participated in his first dove hunt in early September, and plans to stay in the Yuma area for the foreseeable future. He adds, though, that he will always be available to help his fellow Soldiers and their canine companions.

"We hear from former students all the time," he said. "We do what we can to keep in contact and let them know we will always be there for them."

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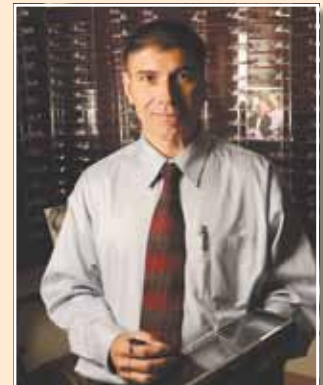
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