

THE OUTPOST

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

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World's largest vertical wind tunnel coming to YPG

By Mark Schauer

YPG is the Army's busiest test center and one of the largest installations in the entire Department of Defense. Another superlative will soon be added to this list: home of the world's largest vertical wind tunnel.

Fifteen years in the making, a groundbreaking ceremony for the Military Freefall School's (MFFS) Vertical Wind Tunnel took place in late September.

Used by jumpers to practice maneuvering and steering their body while freefalling prior to deploying a parachute, wind tunnels suspend student jumpers in a vertical column of air moving at 120 miles per hour. Two stories tall and able to accommodate eight jumpers simultaneously, YPG's wind tunnel will also be the most modern facility of its kind.

"The Military Freefall School is a critical part of YPG," said Col. Reed Young,

YPG commander, at the ceremony. "All of the tenants here are an important part of the health of this installation. Having this new capability continues that greatness."

Whereas currently elite MFFS students must travel to Fort Bragg, N.C. to undergo the freefall simulator portion of their training, the totality of freefall training will

take place at YPG after the wind tunnel is completed. Additionally, the facility will be utilized by other schools within the Department of Defense.

"Having this facility available will save about \$1 million a year in travel costs," said Maj. Abraham Foster, MFFS commander. "It will be an open training venue for other training units on the west coast."

Despite its size, the wind tunnel will be an unobtrusive presence. The powerful motors that produce the vertical columns of air, for instance, will be no noisier than the typical outdoor air conditioning unit.

Though the contract calls for the project to be completed within 18 months, many feel confident it will be ready for use by late 2013.

"Even in an environment of declining budgets, we can continue to show Yuma that good things are still happening at YPG," said Young. "We are healthy and vibrant, and we will be a big part of the community for many years to come."



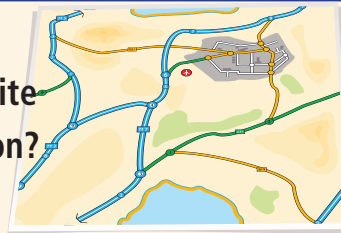
Breaking ground for the world's largest Vertical Wind Tunnel at Yuma Proving Ground are left to right: Julio Dominguez, YPG technical director; YPG Command Sgt. Maj. Keith West, Col. Reed Young, YPG commander; Lt. Col. Chad Harris, Yuma Test Center commander; Maj. Abraham Foster, MFFS commander; John Pilkington, owner of Pilkington Construction; Rick Martin, garrison manager; and representative from Pilkington Construction. Approximately 75 people attended the ceremony for the long awaited project that will very soon become a reality.

PHOTO BY MARK SCHAUER

Giant yard sale
at YPG?
For details see
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Viewpoints:
What's your favorite
autumn destination?
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Meeting
an unforgiving
desert
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In the aviation arena, the number of unmanned aircraft tested at the proving ground continues to grow. In this photo, the Fire-X helicopter is put through a number of vigorous tests on YPG's Cibola Range.

U.S. ARMY PHOTOW

New fiscal year brings old and new challenges

By Chuck Wullenjohn

People mark the New Year in various ways. The traditional new year, January 1st, is the gauge most use to judge the passage of time. Some businesses begin their fiscal year each June. A minority of folks mark April 15th, the date when income taxes are due, as the time one year moves into another. For the federal government, the day is October 1st, which is when the new fiscal year begins. Welcome to FY13!

As when entering any new year, now is the appropriate occasion to remember the past 12 months -- to reflect on the challenges faced and the mountains climbed.

Yuma Proving Ground faced a long series of challenges in the past fiscal year, one that saw our workload decline in some areas and increase in others.

Ensuring the effectiveness and reliability of countermeasures to the threat of improvised explosive devices, the greatest cause of American deaths and injuries in combat overseas, became an

important proving ground mission area during the last 10 years. The YPG organization that performed this important work grew to over 400 people in size, but was realigned this past spring.

Simply, as combat operations overseas diminished, that mission also grew smaller. From roughly 360,000 direct labor hours one year ago, the workload declined to half that. As a result, the new organization the work was realigned to YPG's Air Combat Division, where it began early in the last decade.

In other areas, however, the test workload has continued to thrive. NASA has tested a variety of huge space capsule parachutes at YPG, coming to Yuma four times last year. The next will come in November, with others continuing for years in the future. One can truthfully say that NASA knows a good thing when it sees it!

Regarding artillery testing, YPG's bread and butter, regular booms are heard each day on the firing ranges. The newest artillery systems undergo rigorous testing at the proving ground, such as the most recent

version of the venerable Paladin M109A6 self propelled howitzer, called the Paladin Integrated Management (PIM) program. Many upgrades are being made to the system, including a new chassis, engine and, transmission, as well as an automated loader and electric gun drive.

In the aviation arena, the number of unmanned aircraft tested at the proving ground continues to grow, attracted by YPG's engineering expertise, six airfields and over 2000 miles of restricted airspace. The Air Combat Division has developed a sizeable reputation for its ability to reliably test sensor systems, which keeps the flow of new sensor systems in the pipeline.

One new system on the horizon will bring a new workload to YPG next summer, as 18 Joint Lightweight

Tactical Vehicles (JLTVs) from three vendors are scheduled to arrive. The JLTV is meant to both replace and complement the existing Humvee, and both the Army and Marine Corps are slated to purchase thousands.

It is important to note that YPG's workload surged in past years to support combat operations occurring in Iraq and Afghanistan. Today's workload continues to remain busy, but certainly not at the levels observed when the Army was engaged in simultaneous combat operations in two countries. As a major local employer with an annual payroll amounting to over \$160 million, and nearly \$500 million total local economic impact each year, YPG will continue to remain a major player in the Yuma County economy for the foreseeable future.

Next Outpost deadline is noon

OCTOBER 18TH

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Chaplain's Corner



Chaplain (Maj.) Loren Hutsell

LOANED PHOTO

'Vince Lombardi' Your marriage

By Chaplain (Maj.) Loren Hutsell

I'm very excited that the NFL season is back in full swing. All the teams are vying to make the Super Bowl and win the Lombardi trophy.

The Lombardi trophy is named after Vince Lombardi, who was one of the greatest NFL coaches of all time. He led the Green Bay Packers to five NFL Championships, including the first two Super Bowls. Known for his hard-nosed toughness, his teams were always very physically fit. He was also notorious for his persistence in practicing to get better. He would practice a single play continuously for hours until it was perfected. I have selected several quotes of his that I think are inspirational not only for football, but as positive guidance for marriage.

"There is no substitute for work, it is the price for success."

This was Lombardi's bread and butter. To be successful you have to give full effort. This is true with marriage as well. It requires hard work at the very basics: communicating well, giving 100 percent effort, romancing your wife, and having an attitude that prefers to give than receive.

"Winning isn't everything, it's the only thing."

Lombardi absolutely hated to lose. He rallied his players with a singleness of purpose of expecting to win. We should have the same attitude with our own marriage. We are to be devoted and faithful to our spouse for the long haul, through the good times and the rough times.

"Our greatest glory is not in never

falling, but in rising every time we fall."

Everybody makes mistakes and has failures, but the important thing is to dust yourself off, get back up and keep going. Learn from your failures, but concentrate on what lies ahead. Likewise in marriage, we learn from our mistakes and improve our relationship. In order to do that in marriage it takes honesty and forgiveness, which are cornerstones of a healthy marriage.

Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her. (Ephesians 5:25)

(Chaplain Hutsell is available for confidential personal, marriage, and pastoral counseling by calling 928-328-3465. There is no cost and the counseling is provided at his Post Chapel office.)

Giant Yard sale to take place at YPG

A post-wide yard sale will take place in housing areas of Yuma Proving Ground between 8 a.m. and noon on Saturday, October 20. This is the second consecutive year that the sale has been held. Everyone in Yuma is invited to attend.

Approximately 25

to 35 families, or more, are expected to display items for sale, with items ranging from tools and household goods, to furniture and toys. Many bargains will be available! Food will be available at the proving ground's Coyote Lanes bowling center.

Yuma Proving Ground is located approximately 30 miles from downtown Yuma. To enter the

proving ground, be sure to bring a drivers license, vehicle registration and proof of insurance.

Driving directions: Take Highway 95 north for about 20 miles. After driving about 20 miles, turn left

on Imperial Dam Road where two giant artillery pieces point upward on the left side of the road and a large sign on the right

proclaims "Yuma Proving Ground." Take Imperial Dam Road for about five miles, then turn right into YPG's main housing area. Present your license and other documentation to the security guard and he will provide any necessary directions. Have fun!

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Bike Rodeo instills safe riding for children



Children, ages four through 14, participated in the annual Bike Rodeo sponsored by the Directorate of Emergency Services in conjunction with YPG's Family Morale, Welfare and Recreation (FMWR). McGriff and police officers were on hand to provide bicycle training to include how to navigate corners while riding bicycles, looking for cars at four-way stop signs and much more. At the completion of the Bike Rodeo, attendees were treated to a barbecue meal sponsored by FMWR.

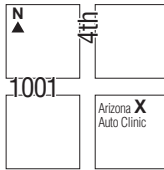
PHOTOS BY YOLIE CANALES



On the left, one of the stations children were familiarized with was Mr. B's bike check. In this photo, Mr. B's employees inspect the entire bike to assure every part meets the safety standard requirements and is safe to ride on the streets.

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Once the participants went through all the stations, they were presented with a certificate of achievement for their participation and for completing the training.

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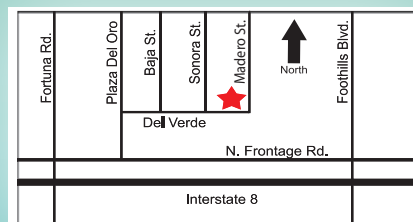
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Military forces meet



Accompanied by Command Sgt. Maj. Keith West, YPG commander Col. Reec Young (left) visited the unit's training position during their stay at the proving ground, greeting Soldiers and support personnel.

PHOTOS BY MARK SCHAUER

By Mark Schauer

Most YPG folks know the sound of gunfire and missiles, and the sight of combat aircraft as ordinary occurrences. Nearly everyone assumes the aforementioned are the result of equipment testing programs at the Army's busiest test center.

In the years rapidly fielding platforms such as the Mine Resistant Ambush Protected (MRAP) vehicle, the Advanced Precision Mortar Initiative (APMI) and technologies to defeat the deadly power of improvised explosive devices, many members of the workforce may not have noticed the ever-increasing number of troops utilizing YPG's vast range space for training.

This unobtrusiveness wasn't an accident.

"The Training Exercise Management Office (TEMO)

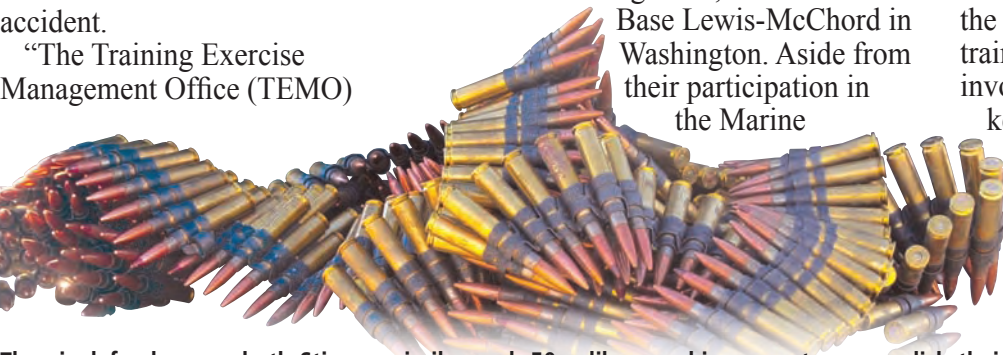
works for Yuma Test Center, and our mission is to protect test," said Luis Arroyo, TEMO chief. "We support training by ensuring all test activities are not hindered by training activities. We have to be able to work 24 hours a day, seven days a week and find every efficiency possible in order to get units onto the range safely and without affecting test operations."

Currently, a battalion of Marines from Camp Lejeune, N.C., are calling YPG home while participating in the annual Weapons and Tactics Instructor (WTI) course staged in Yuma twice a year for Marine Corps aviators, ground combat planners and support personnel. Also participating are over 200 Soldiers of the Fifth Battalion, Fifth Air Defense Regiment, from Joint Base Lewis-McChord in Washington. Aside from their participation in the Marine

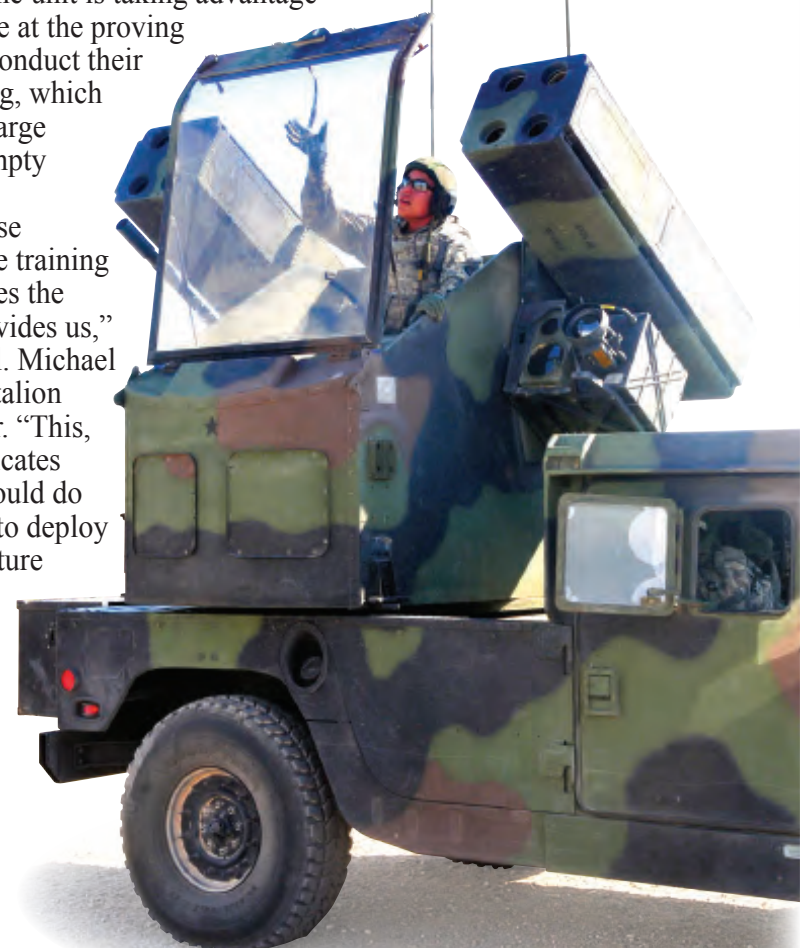
exercises, the unit is taking advantage of their time at the proving ground to conduct their own training, which requires a large swath of empty range.

"We chose YPG for the training opportunities the facility provides us," said Lt. Col. Michael Melito, battalion commander. "This, for us, replicates what we would do if we were to deploy to an immature theater."

A major element of the unit's training involves keeping



The air defenders use both Stinger missiles and .50 caliber machine guns to accomplish their mission. Here, several belts of .50 caliber ammunition are ready for loading.



The ability to conduct live firing in an isolated area underneath airspace that is prohibited to civilian aircraft is coveted for air defense training, and YPG's vast size and restricted airspace allows units to do so. Here, a Soldier prepares for his turn in the turret of a HMMWV Avenger.

unforgiving desert



The HMMWV Avenger uses Stinger antiaircraft missiles and a .50 caliber machine gun for short-range air defense against cruise missiles, unmanned aircraft, and low-flying conventional aircraft and helicopters. Here, a Soldier prepares a belt of .50 caliber ammunition for use in the exercises.



Over 200 Soldiers of the Fifth Battalion, Fifth Air Defense Regiment from Washington's Joint Base Lewis-McChord came to YPG in late September both to participate in the Marine Corps' Weapons and Tactics Instructor (WTI) course and conduct unit training. "We chose YPG for the training opportunities the facility provides us," said Lt. Col. Michael Melito, battalion commander of the air defense unit.

current on their anti-aircraft skills by firing Stinger surface-to-air missiles and .50 caliber machine guns from a turret atop modified

High Mobility Multipurpose Wheeled Vehicles (HMMWV) at small unmanned aircraft. Steered by ground controllers under a nearby pop-up tent, the unmanned craft also boast sensors that track incoming rounds, and credit Soldiers with hits if the projectile comes within five feet of a moving target. The ability to conduct live firing in an isolated area underneath airspace that is prohibited to civilian aircraft is coveted for this type of training, and YPG's vast size and restricted airspace allows units to do so.

"We make it very convenient to use our ranges for white-space

training," said Arroyo.

This isn't the first time Melito has come to YPG, either. A positive experience during his last visit in 2007 prompted him to volunteer his battalion for the current WTI in order to piggyback their own training needs on the visit.

"Support has been outstanding," said Melito. "The installation has come a long way in terms of training and range support. Other than the heat, we are pleased with everything here."

"We received both battalions about the same time," added Arroyo. "That's over 1,100 Soldiers and Marines and their ancillary equipment and supplies in a three to four day span. It's a challenge, but we can do it, and do it well."

During the training, Soldiers keep current on their anti-aircraft skills by engaging small unmanned aircraft such as the one seen here. Steered by ground controllers, the unmanned craft boast sensors that track incoming rounds, and credit Soldiers with hits if a projectile comes within five feet of the moving target.



Skills that contribute to 'Resilience'

Submitted by Paul Kilanski

Resilience- What is it? Resilience is the ability to grow and thrive in the face of challenges and bounce back from adversity. It is achieved by developing skills that enable mental toughness, peak performance, strong leadership and goal achievement. A resilient individual is one who is willing to take calculated, necessary risks and seize opportunities.

The skills that contribute to resilience are: self-awareness, self-regulation, optimism, mental agility, strengths of character and connection. One of the misconceptions about resilience is that some people are born with it and others are not. This is a myth! Everyone has the potential to develop these skills and the ability to become resilient.

So, what exactly is required to develop these skills?

1. Self-awareness: When faced

with a situation, either positive or negative, we all have individual thoughts about that situation which create emotions that lead to behaviors. For example: When someone says something rude to us, our first thought might be, "how dare you!" This may produce an angry emotion which can lead to a negative behavior in retaliation. We need to be able to identify our personal patterns of thinking and behaviors, particularly counterproductive patterns. We must be open to new ideas and curious about the reasons for our behaviors.

2. Self-regulation: We must learn and practice controlling impulses, emotions and behaviors that can lead to undesired results. Learn how to express emotions appropriately and stop counterproductive thinking.

3. Optimism: Look for something good every day. Be able to identify what you can and cannot control and

be realistic in that identification. Have confidence in yourself. Optimists as compared to pessimists are happier and have less depression. They are healthier, have fewer illnesses, recover faster and live longer. They are seen as better leaders, have stronger relationships, do better in sports, perform better under pressure and are more successful at work and in school. With all these positive aspects, who would not want to strive to be more optimistic? They focus on solutions when change is possible and acceptance when it is not. Optimists are more realistic about how much control they have, take better care of themselves, are more likely to try new strategies when current ones aren't working and learn from failure.

4. Mental Agility: Be flexible and accurate in your thinking. Consider other perspectives. Learn to identify and understand problems and be willing to try new strategies.

5. Strengths of Character: Know your strengths and how to use them to overcome challenges and meet goals. Have faith in your strengths, talents and abilities and maintain an "I am strong" attitude.

6. Connection: Maintain strong relationships with family and friends. Practice positive and effective communication. Be willing to ask for help, have empathy for and provide support to others.

Developing and utilizing these skills will increase your ability to cope with stress, overcome setbacks, solve problems, remain task focused, perform under pressure, increase your confidence, decrease helplessness, depression and anxiety.

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OPM eager for phased retirement to begin

By Eric Yoder

The government's central personnel agency says that allowing federal employees to phase into retirement is one of its important goals and it will make the option available "as soon as possible."

However, participation will be "entirely voluntary" for both employees and their employing agencies, and certain categories of workers will be excluded, the Office of Personnel Management (OPM) added.

Under phased retirement, an agency will be able to offer employees who are retirement-eligible the choice of switching to part-time work. They would draw a partial salary and a partial annuity, both prorated according to the time worked.

Phased retirement had been proposed for years as helping employees interested in cutting back on their work schedules rather than retiring fully, while the government would continue to benefit from their expertise. The law envisions that phased retirees would spend a fifth of their working time mentoring younger employees.

The authority was enacted as a cost-saving part of an unrelated bill signed last month, but the option will not be available until OPM issues implementing rules. OPM has not released an expected start-up date.

Under the traditional law in effect until then, when federal retirees return to work for the government they continue to receive their full annuities, but their pay generally is reduced by an equal amount. Limited exceptions allow for full receipt of

both.

"An effective phased retirement plan has been a long-sought goal. However, under prior law, the problem was that an individual who was retirement-eligible but wished to continue employment on a part-time basis generally had little economic incentive to do so because an employee's potential retirement benefits would often be equal to or greater than their salary would be for part-time employment," OPM said.

While the law authorizing phased retirement would allow retirees to work between one and four days a week on average, OPM told agencies that at the outset, at least, only half-time work will be allowed.

Phased retirement will be available only to those who meet standard retirement eligibility rules and who also had been working

full-time for the three previous years. Employees who are subject to mandatory retirement will be excluded; most of them work in law enforcement, air traffic control and firefighting.

Phased retirees will be treated as employees for purposes of health and life insurance coverage and survivor benefits, OPM said. When they decide to retire fully, their annuity benefits will be paid in full, with increases reflecting their additional working time.

The Congressional Budget Office (CBO) in May estimated that, on average, phased retirees would remain in that status for three years before retiring fully. CBO also estimated that 1,000 employees would enter phased retirement each year; OPM has not released any estimate of its own.

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VIEWPOINTS

The worst heat of summer may be over, but Yuma desert dwellers still need to travel to enjoy the crisp, cool days of other locations in autumn. For this Viewpoint, we asked members of the workforce, "What is your favorite autumn destination?"



Alex McNeely
Firefighter/Paramedic

Mexico. Last fall, my wife and I went to Cozumel, an island off of the Yucatan Peninsula right across from Cancun, for a week. There is great scuba diving there. This fall we're headed to Cabo San Lucas for four nights.

Michelle Morgan
Administrative Assistant

Astoria, Oregon. I have family there. It is very small, on the coast at the mouth of the Columbia River. It is very green and has a lot of historic Victorian homes. The movies Kindergarten Cop and Goonies were filmed there: My aunt was an extra in Goonies.



Erin Curry
Data Collector

The sand dunes. We race Jeeps and hand rails, camp and eat s'mores with the kids. It is always a great time!



Jason House
Contract Specialist

San Diego is great in every season of the year. I'm a beach person, and my wife and I enjoy bicycling on the boardwalk. There are all kinds of great restaurants, too.



Steve Alexander
Budget Analyst

Winslow, Arizona. My wife and I especially enjoyed staying at the La Posada Hotel, a national historic landmark that was once one of the famous Harvey House railroad hotels. The hotel's restaurant has been ranked one of the three best in the country by a national magazine.



Safety Corner

SafetyGrams allow you to be heard

YPG implemented the SafetyGram Program in 1994 to allow employees to identify safety concerns. With nearly 300 submitted since that time, a SafetyGram reports unsafe acts or conditions, brings the hazards to the attention of the Safety Office and senior leaders, provides feedback from management, and may be submitted anonymously. Senior management officials are briefed on the status of various SafetyGrams at least once each month.

Process: Do you have a safety issue or wish to report a hazard? Just fill out a SafetyGram and give it to a supervisor; drop it into a SafetyGram box located post wide; or send it to the YPG Safety Office.

Supervisors: If you can fix the problem, fix it! Enter your action on the front of the SafetyGram and send it to the YPG Safety Office. If you can't fix it, but know what should be done, attach your recommendation. If you can't fix it, and don't know what should be done, send it

to the YPG Safety Office for action.

Submitters: If the name is on the form, submitters are notified immediately of the receipt of the Safety Gram. They are then kept informed until a resolution has taken place.

Recent SafetyGrams completed:

A. Tree trimmed at corner of Pole Line Road and Tower 12.

B. Concern about fog: The Meteorology team publishes daily weather information that now includes fog warnings whenever necessary.

Current Safetygrams Being Worked:

Corner Martinez Lake Road and Highway 95 - there have been several near misses at or near this intersection that are being investigated.

An investigation is being conducted into departing commuter traffic from the command group area and vehicle congestion created at the Imperial Dam Road intersection.

Commissary rewards card now available

The Commissary Rewards Card is now available in the Yuma Proving Ground Commissary. The card allows customers to access digital coupons online and redeem them in any commissary by scanning the card at checkout.

These cards allow customers to reduce the number of paper coupons they have to clip and carry. That saves customers time, effort and money.

The cards, available only from a commissary, are easy to use. As an introductory offer, customers who pick up their card by Oct. 24 receive preloaded digital coupons that can be used immediately in the commissary, even before the card is registered. To register their card and add more digital coupons, customers visit the commissary website at <http://www.commissaries.com/rewards/index.cfm>.

Once a card is registered, customers can print a list of their digital coupons to carry with them to the commissary and help keep track of their savings. New digital coupon offers are typically posted online every two to three weeks.

Customers who register their card by Oct. 24 can enter the 2012 Commissary

Rewards Card "Home for the Holidays Sweepstakes" sponsored by Dr Pepper-7up for a chance to win round-trip airline tickets for four to anywhere in the states, lodging in a hotel room that accommodates four for six days and five nights, and \$1,000 spending money. The sweepstakes entry form appears at the end of the registration process online.

Just like their paper counterparts, digital coupons have expiration dates and other terms and conditions that must be followed for redemption. However, Commissary Rewards Card digital coupons will not be accepted in commissaries overseas for up to six months after expiration, as paper coupons are. This is because the coupons are distributed digitally and instantly available to all customers worldwide. Once a coupon expires, it will disappear from the customer's account.

For more information on this card, visit www.commissaries.com/faq and click "Commissary Rewards Card." Help is also available through the customer service hotline at 855-829-6219 or through email at commissarysupport@inmar.com.

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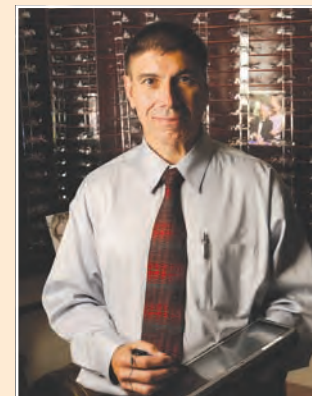
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Patrick D. Aiello, MD

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