

THE OUTPOST

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

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YPG's new Candlewood Suites a 'dream-come-true'

By Yolie Canales

A long awaited dream became a reality August 21, as Lend Lease (US) Public Partnerships, the nation's leader in public-private community development, conducted the initial ground breaking for the new Candlewood Suites that will add another plus to the "gem" of the testing world, YPG!

The hotel development is part of the Privatization of Army Lodging (PAL) program, a U.S. Army-led program established as a means to revitalize

on-post lodging facilities for Soldiers, their families and all government travelers. Lend Lease is the developer for the PAL program, which includes the renovation and development of approximately 7,700 hotel rooms on 21 military installations throughout the U.S., and Puerto Rico. InterContinental Hotels Group.

YPG Commander Col. Reed Young said at the ground breaking ceremony, "It's important to recognize that YPG has had a

privatized hotel operation since August 2009. With 91 rooms in two separate buildings, one of which was a former Army barracks built in the 1950's, the hotel averaged an annual occupancy rate of about 60 percent, most of whom were military personnel visiting YPG for training."

In fiscal year 2011, he pointed out, 20,000 customers were served at the hotel by a staff of 16 dedicated people who provide top notch service despite less than desirable facilities. "They will soon move to the new

Candlewood Suites and, with general manager Jody Sessions at the helm, there is no doubt that occupants will receive the best services in the best hotel anywhere in the Army and Department of Defense," said Young.

Selected for its extended-stay hotel model, the Candlewood Suites will feature a variety of amenities, such as spacious studios and one-bedroom suites, fully-equipped kitchens and large work areas in each room, a swimming pool, a 24-hour Candlewood Cupboard for food and beverages, a business and fitness

center, guest laundry facilities, and complimentary hot breakfast served daily.

The current hotel and its staff have always functioned as excellent members of the overall YPG community, as well as supporting Price Elementary School on numerous occasions. The hotel sponsors the school's Walkathon each year and donates a hot lunch to students at the school every two months throughout the school year. Additionally, the hotel has sponsored numerous events held by YPG's Family Morale Welfare and Recreation Directorate.



Groundbreaking for the Yuma Proving Ground Candlewood Suites took place August 21st, a long awaited event. Participating in the ceremonial shoveling of dirt are left to right: Col. Reed Young, YPG commander, Arthur Holst and Alvin Magcale (both of Inter-Continental Hotel Group), Jim Wichenheiser and Kate Alger (both of Lend Lease), Jody Sessions, general manager for YPG's IHG and YPG's Command Sgt. Maj. Keith West.

PHOTO BY LUCY RIVERA

HISPANIC AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH

Proving the Block III Apache guns Page 6



Sesame Street/USO Experience Details Page 10



Building named for former Garrison deputy manager

By Yolie Canales

In honor of former YPG garrison deputy manager Chris Saucedo, U.S. Army Garrison Hohenfels, Germany, recently renamed its Central Processing Center & Army Community Service Building in late July. The building is now called the “Chris J. Saucedo Soldier and Family Readiness Center.”

Over 200 people attended the ceremony, including his widow, Teresa, and two children who traveled to Germany from their home in Santa Ana, Calif. “The trip was bittersweet, but I am so glad that the Lord enabled us to do it,” said Teresa. “The enormous display of love and affection was humbling and awesome. It was an honor to be there, not only to witness the dedication of the building, but also for Chris’s brother, Mario, to be able participate in the first annual Chris J. Saucedo Memorial Golf

Tournament.”

Chris Saucedo came to YPG in mid-2009 as garrison deputy manager after serving as deputy to the garrison commander for the Hohenfels Military Community from 1999 to 2009. He retired in May 2011, returning to Southern California with his wife of 37 years, where he passed away August 31, 2011, after battling cancer for five years.

Saucedo, the eldest of five siblings, entered the Army at the age of 31 in 1972. As an older recruit, he defied odds by quickly moving up the ranks to sergeant major upon his retirement in 1996. He continued his civil service career for an additional 15 years, serving most of those years in Germany.

In a heartfelt speech at the ceremony, his daughter, Marisa, spoke of how her father did everything with a spirit of

excellence and helped mold her into what she is today. When she was a child and her father served as drill sergeant at Fort McClellan, Ala., he would recite the words “duty-honor-country” as he rehearsed General Douglas MacArthur’s speech in time with a recording of the Army band to ensure everything flowed as it should for graduation ceremonies he was preparing to attend. “My father would even practice facing movements with my brother and me in the living room to become better as a drill sergeant,” she said. “This is the way he was throughout his military career. My father was and will continue to be my mentor and someone who I aspire to be like.”

Both YPG Garrison Manager Rick Martin and Deputy Garrison Manager Gordon Rogers thank Chris Saucedo for the work he performed at YPG and throughout his career.



Saucedo’s wife and daughter, participate in the renaming building dedication of the new Chris J. Saucedo Soldier & Family Readiness Center at Hohenfels, Germany.

LOANED PHOTO



Test data collectors sharpen writing skills

By Yolie Canales

Writing a simple declarative sentence can be a difficult task. Many times, it causes individuals to stare at blank sheets of paper. However, with proper training on the five W’s and one H (who, what, where, when, why and how) anyone can learn to put complex, multiple sentences together in no time.

This is exactly what took place when two dozen data collectors and three trainers from TRAX Inc., gathered together for training to sharpen technical writing skills and become more familiar with Yuma Test Center’s writing style guide.

The class was taught by Northern Arizona University Chairperson Dr. Gregory Larkin, professor in literacy, technology and professional writing. Larkin has visited YPG to

train government employees in the past; however, this was the fifth time he taught data collectors since July 2008.

“The class was extremely worthwhile, not only for the grammatical rules that were covered, but also for the plain and simple approach to active voice writing,” said Jared Stromberg, data collector. “I would absolutely recommend it to others in my line of work, especially those with little or no experience in writing in an active voice.”

Maria Johnson, engineering technician for Data Acquisition Training Development, said students were taught how to write simple but concise narratives that were easy to digest and understand, particularly while reviewing Test Incident Reports (TIR) at test scoring conferences. “The sessions included the ‘who,

what, where, when, why, and how’ in incident reports involving performance testing and maintenance procedures,” she said.

Uniformity was deemed the most important factor among YTC writers, she said, to include the fundamentals and mechanics of grammar, clarity, conciseness, coherence and punctuation in YPG driven documents. To put the knowledge into motion, students organized in groups at the class to dissect TIR narratives and collectively produce comprehensive



Sharpening technical writing skills and working as a team are left to right: Debbie Martin, Marty LaBelle, Teri Gleason, Stephen Hauser and Pam Gunderson.

PHOTO BY MARIA JOHNSON

and concise reports.

Course instructor Larkin plans to return to set up a mentoring program for the data acquisition section. The program will involve using skilled data collectors working in the field with data collectors requiring extra assistance in writing TIRs.

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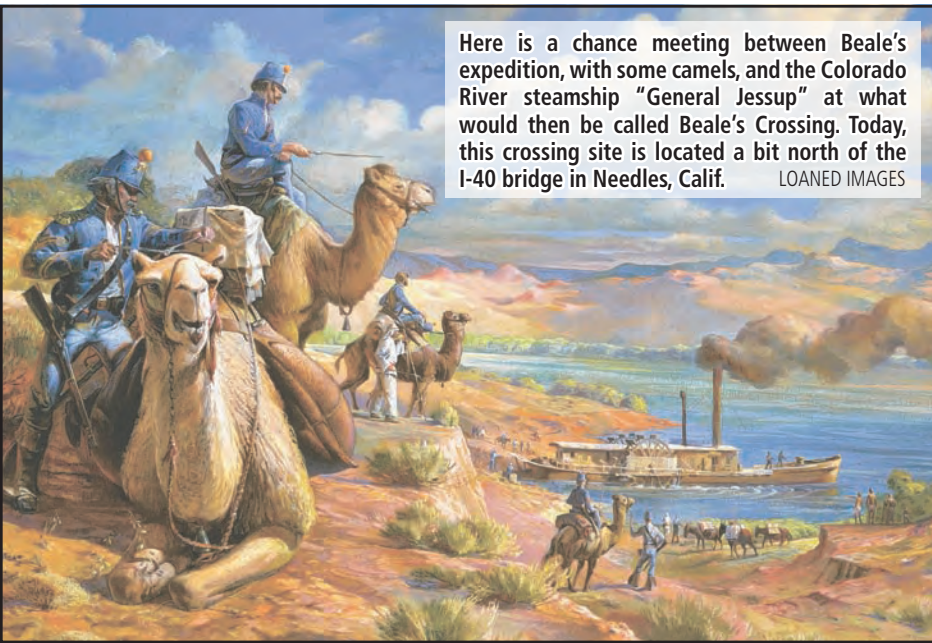
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Here is a chance meeting between Beale's expedition, with some camels, and the Colorado River steamship "General Jessup" at what would then be called Beale's Crossing. Today, this crossing site is located a bit north of the I-40 bridge in Needles, Calif. LOANED IMAGES

Testing for a transportation solution; The Army's Camel Corps

By Bill Heidner

The Army's famed Camel Corps (circa 1856-1866) is really a misnomer. It never actually existed as a "corps," rather, it should be seen as an experiment to solve a vexing transportation problem of its day. That problem was the Desert Southwest and the solution was to import camels to determine their suitability for use for "military purposes." In today's terms, it was a rapid fielding initiative using a commercial off-the-shelf solution (COTS) undergoing operational testing prior to fielding.

COTS is an attractive idea for a number of reasons. It may save a ton of money in development costs. It could save lots of time and allow for rapid fielding to those who needed a solution yesterday. Of course, fielding COTS without conducting a proper test and evaluation to determine the suitability of the item to meet requirements and needs is dicey at best.

By definition, developmental testing is not absolutely required; but operational testing may be just the

ticket. For all of these reasons the War Department sought and, in 1856, received a \$30,000 appropriation to purchase "dromedaries and camels."

The experiment itself represents a relatively short chapter in America's history. Lasting "officially" from 1856 to about 1866, it is as much a story of our nation's need to expand westward as it is about the usefulness of camels to the Army. The experiment is largely held to have been a failure; but was it a failure of the capabilities of the camels or something else?

Interest in the military use of camels in North America began in 1836 with several papers circulated within the Army. Maj. Henry Wayne's letter of 1848 caught the attention of the senator from Mississippi, Jefferson Davis. It wasn't until 1855 when Davis became Secretary of War that Congress moved favorably with an appropriation. Wayne was placed in charge of the program and Lt. David Porter of the Navy was tasked to assist with the procurement of "dromedaries and camels" from the Levant. In all, Porter would bring 75

camels to the United States, most of them considered to be dromedaries.

Camp Verde, located about 60 miles northwest of San Antonio, Texas, was designated as headquarters for the experiment. Wayne reported directly to the Secretary of War and had complete control of the appropriation. The first load of 33 camels came ashore at Indianola, Texas, and made quite a stir as they moved to their new home. Porter returned to the Levant to procure the second group of camels while Wayne set about getting them acclimated and ready for the next phase of the test.

It is perhaps here that the test program began to unravel. Wayne wanted to take time to develop a stronger breed of camel based on the Persian custom of cross breeding dromedaries with Bactrian camels to produce the "Tuili" variation. Secretary of War Davis, however, wanted the testing to begin immediately. The pending presidential election would almost certainly result in a new cabinet and Davis was anxious to show results from the \$30,000.00 appropriation.

Wayne was recalled to Washington and reassigned duties in the Quartermaster Department just as Porter was arriving with the second group of camels and camel drivers. When the presidential election took place, it did result in a change in administration.

New Secretary of War James Floyd liked the camel idea and he, too, was anxious to get on with the test. For this, he chose Lt. Ed Beale, a former Navy officer who had a contract to develop a wagon road from Fort Defiance to the Colorado River, roughly following the 36th parallel. Floyd additionally tasked Beale to pick up 25 camels at Camp Verde and to test them as he developed the road.

Beale found the camels to be excellent beasts of burden on this trip. He and his business partner, Samuel A. Bishop, also used the Army's camels for several surveying

missions from 1858 to about 1861. In Texas, the lack of a program manager and trouble accessing the funds for the camels, had often left the more than 50 camels there as idle beasts enjoying a steady diet of good hay and oats at the Army's expense. Notably, these camels were taken out and used to survey areas of West Texas and the areas known today as the Big Bend.

In all cases, those who actually used the camels were much impressed by their qualities. Beale noticed that as the arduous trip across the New Mexico / Arizona Territory progressed, the camels got stronger while the Army's horses and mules became weaker. The soldiers using the camels in Texas noted similarly good results. In all cases, those who were left to take care of idle camels, which was the rule rather than the exception, hated the beasts.

The advent of the Civil War doomed the experiment once and for all. Sponsored by the person who was now president of the Confederate States of America, senior Army leadership, especially Quartermaster General of the Army Montgomery Meigs, had no interest in sustaining the camel experiment. The camels in California and the few at Fort Yuma were sold off in 1863. The Texas camels were "captured" by the Confederate army and returned to U.S. control at the end of the war. That herd had grown in size, but had done little to suggest that the experiment should continue. They were sold off in 1866.

This past June, over 112 people gathered at the Yuma Main Library to enjoy a presentation on the camels. Encore performances are already being arranged for next spring at several venues around town. For more information about the camels, contact Bill Heidner at 328-3394, or simply look forward to attending one of the spring-time presentations.

THE OUTPOST

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Block III Apache gun tests nearly complete

Proven to be a robust aircraft with a remarkable ability

By Mark Schauer

A primary responsibility of Yuma Proving Ground is to support developmental testing designed to assess improvements to existing weapons systems, even on platforms considered the most lethal of their kind, such as the AH-64D Apache Longbow attack helicopter. Having been involved in Apache testing for over 30 years, the Air Combat Systems Test Directorate boasts a huge amount of institutional knowledge and experience.

This knowledge has been brought to bear across the extensive Apache Block III improvements to the long-serving airframe that have been taking place at the proving ground since 2009. The latest version of the Apache boasts a wide array of upgrades, from a new engine and transmission to instrumented flight capability normally associated with large airplanes. More excitingly, the gunner aboard

the updated Apache is able to control an armed, fully functional unmanned aerial system (UAS) from the cockpit.

Survivability is a critical component of any attack helicopter, and the Apache has been designed as a heavily-armored fortress. It has proven to be a robust aircraft with a remarkable ability to return to friendly territory and land safely even when severely damaged by enemy fire. Yet the Apache is no lumbering

guidance systems, as well as lethal air-to-surface missiles.

The aircraft's M230 30 millimeter chain gun in a turret below the cockpit is another deadly part of its arsenal, capable of firing hundreds of rounds per minute. As the aircraft reacts to the powerful gun's recoil during firing, however, the gun's pointing angle moves. Without sophisticated software that corrects

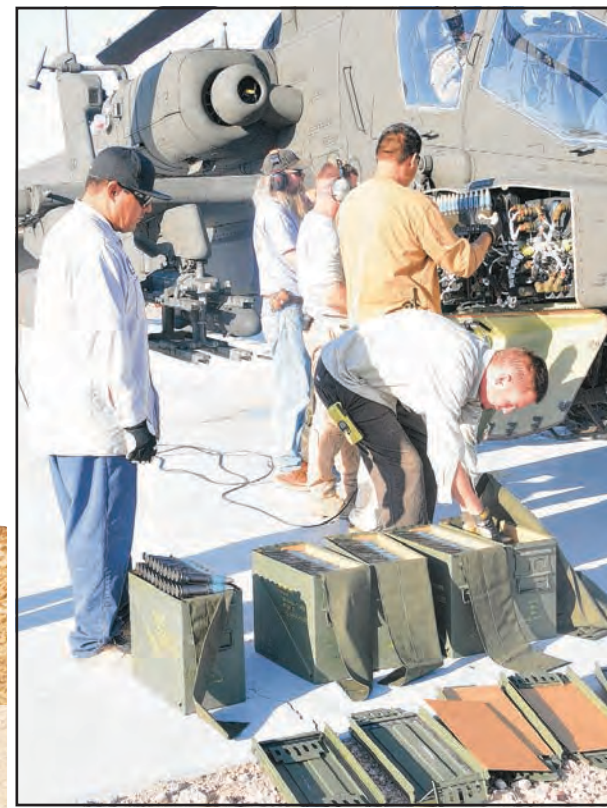
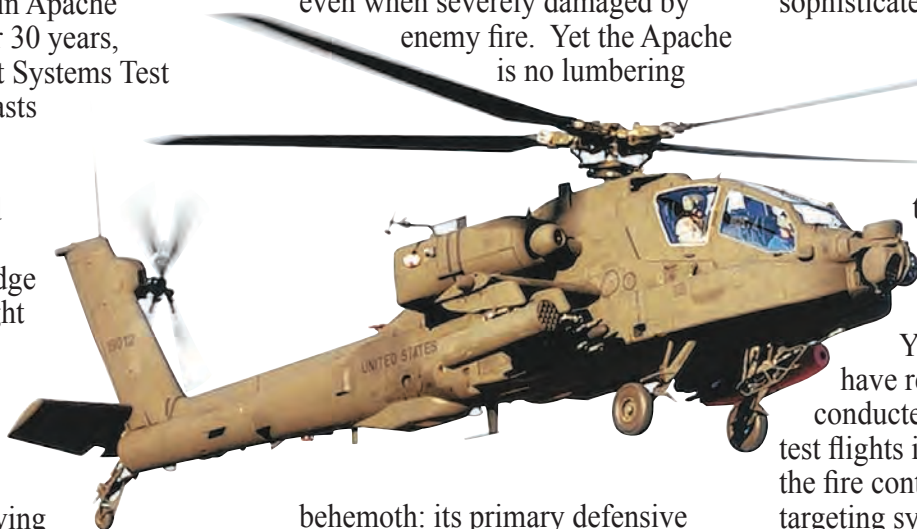
the aim point of the gun, the rounds would be thrown off target as

the aircraft bends. To prevent this, YPG testers have recently conducted over 25 test flights in which the fire control and targeting systems were put through their paces against a variety of stationary targets from multiple angles that

simulate actual combat conditions.

"The purpose of this subtest is to take a random sampling of multiple aircraft and characterize the shift of individual turret and air frames fired at various angles," said Pat Franklin, test officer. "Each airframe has a slightly different variation, and characterizing these differences allows designers to find a best-fit software for the entire fleet."

To accomplish this type of testing, YPG evaluators use a massive target 70 feet tall and 30 feet wide and covered with thick armor plating. The chain gun's 30 millimeter



[Top] Having tested variants of the Apache attack helicopter for over 30 years, YPG was the ideal location to test the extensive improvements on the latest iteration, the Block III. "This is the greatest place in the world for our purposes," said Dan Girardin, Boeing Flight Test Engineer. [Right] The Apache's M230 30 millimeter chain gun is capable of firing hundreds of rounds per minute, and requires sophisticated software that corrects the aim point of the gun when the aircraft is firing while flying. Here, support personnel prepare to reload the gun during a long day of test firing.

PHOTOS BY MARK SCHAUER



Though the Apache helicopter has long been renowned for its lethal air-to-surface missiles, the aircraft's pilots also count on its 30 millimeter chain gun to take the fight to the enemy. Tests of the software that ensures its accuracy have been part of the Block III Apache testing that have taken place at YPG for over three years.

bullets pepper the black and white checkerboard pattern painted onto it as the aircraft fires from different angles and elevations, sometimes from a stationary hover, sometimes at high speed while approaching the target, but always with test officers

and support personnel watching a live video feed and gathering real-time data in a mission control room.

It is necessary to refuel the aircraft and reload the chain gun during a long day of testing, and while ground crews perform these tasks,

other workers rapidly lower the target with a large winch and counterweight and touch up the chipped paint, making the target ready to go without any degradation to the uniformity of test data across multiple tests.

Though the final gun accuracy performance testing later this summer will conclude the Block III testing, YPG testers expect an extensive new

round of updates to the venerable attack helicopter to take place within the next two to three years, all of which will require careful evaluation prior to fielding it to troops.

"This is the greatest place in the world for our purposes," said Dan Girardin, Boeing Flight Test Engineer. "The support here is always perfect, the weather is ideal, and the facility has all the capabilities we need for testing.

Safety Corner

Vehicle tire safety

Far too often, individuals are injured or even killed due to tire accidents that could have been prevented. As the temperatures remain hot in the desert southwest, tire safety should be a priority for all. Studies of tire safety indicate that maintaining proper tire pressure, observing tire and vehicle load limits, avoiding road hazards, and inspecting tires for cuts, slashes or other irregularities are the most important precautions you can take to avoid tire failure. Following these care and maintenance activities can improve vehicle handling, help protect you and others from avoidable

breakdowns/accidents, improve fuel economy and increase the life of your tires.

Additionally, follow these steps to ensure proper tire pressure:

Step 1 : Locate the recommended tire pressure on the vehicle's tire information placard, certification label or in the owner's manual.

Step 2 : Record the tire pressure of all tires.

Step 3 : If the tires pressure is too high in any of the tires, slowly release air by gently pressing on the

tire valve stem with the edge of your tire gauge until you reach the correct pressure.

Step 4 : If the tire pressure is too low, note the difference between the measured tire pressure and the correct tire pressure. These "missing" pounds of pressure are what you will need to add.

Step 5 : At a service station, add the missing pounds of air pressure to each tires that is underinflated.

Step 6 : Check all the tires to make sure they have the same air pressure

(except in cases in which the front and rear tires are supposed to have different amounts of pressure).

Remember to ensure proper tire pressure and take all safety precautions to avoid a tire accident.

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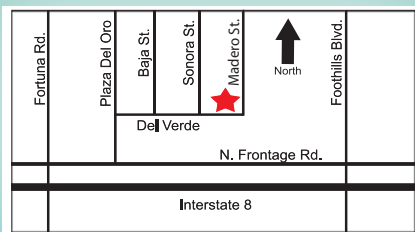
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Hispanic American Heritage Month



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Sunday, Sept. 16: Religious services at Post Chapel, 9:30 and 11 a.m. Services. Mexican pastries and refreshments available after both services.

Monday, Sept. 17: Cooking Demo by Yolie Canales at Michaels Community Center, MAA, 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Menu: Nopalitos con huevos and Posole (m-m-m-m- Delicioso!)

Tuesday, Sept. 18: Salsa Making/Tasting at Bldg. 2105, ROC Atrium, 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Wednesday, Sept. 19: Hispanic Heritage Poster Contest at Price Elementary School

Thursday, Sept. 20: Hispanic Heritage Luncheon, at YPG Travel Camp Bldg. S6, 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Entertainment: AWC Salsa Dancers and much more!! Menu: Red Beef Enchilada Casserole, Spanish rice and Refried beans, salsa, chips and homemade Mexican dessert!

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Teens build 'resilience' at summit

By Lucy Rivera

Decisions in life can lead in many directions, some right and some wrong. These decisions can have consequences that have a direct impact on your life.

Yuma Proving Ground hosted its first teen summit last month in an effort to aid two dozen teens ranging in age between 12 and 17. "We wanted them to gain insight into themselves, identify leadership traits they already possess and help them emphasize those traits," said Christopher Lee, Army Substance Abuse Program Manager. "Our intention was to provide them with tools necessary for making good future choices."

The core of the program featured Michael Pritchard, a well-known motivational speaker who helps young people gain insight into themselves and the decisions they make. He is also a youth activist, humorist, and has hosted a variety of television programs on PBS. Pritchard has delivered motivational speeches to many youths across the country for more than 25 years.

During one of his speeches, entitled "Bouncing Back," many teens shared experiences about others getting bullied or were bullied themselves once upon a time. "Pain shared is pain divided; compassion shared is compassion multiplied," said Pritchard. He also talked about how they could be resilient and bounce back from those types of situations.

"You can't stand by, you must stand up," he advised. "When you walk out from here today, we are asking you to look inside your heart," were the words Pritchard threw out to encourage them to help others when in need and stand up for themselves. Throughout the day, other guest

speakers gave motivational speeches, including Rick Martin, garrison manager, and Maj. Loren Hutsell, chaplain, who spoke on resilience and forgiveness. Students were afforded the opportunity to interact with one another that included a variety of exercises geared toward identifying leadership traits.

"The idea is to build resilience in teens to give them better tools to make positive choices regarding alcohol, relationships they are in, respecting themselves, or any issue in their lives. We want to establish a foundation for them to continue to grow," said Lee.

The summit was held at Arizona Western College and sponsored by the Army Substance Abuse Program, Army Community Services, Youth Services, and the Post Chaplain.

Michael Pritchard, a well-known motivational speaker, talks to a group of teenagers at the Teen Summit held last month and hosted by Yuma Proving Ground. Pritchard helps teenagers with the necessary tools for making good future choices.

PHOTO BY LUCY RIVERA



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Barber Shop in business again!



Rachel Davis, barber at the YPG Barber Shop, says no matter how bad the economy is, everyone needs a haircut.

PHOTO BY LUCY RIVERA

By Lucy Rivera

Need a haircut and don't want to drive back and forth to Yuma? YPG's barber shop has reopened under new management, and is ready to serve you.

YPG's new barber, Rachel Davis, graduated from Universal Barber College in Phoenix and has been cutting hair for over two years. She made the decision to become a qualified barber because it would be a skill she could take anywhere, plus, people need haircuts no matter what the economic situation. "Even during our current recession, everyone needs good grooming," she remarked with a smile.

The barber shop offers basic haircuts for \$7.95. This includes military cuts, but more complex haircuts such as a Mohawk cost \$9.95. Other services available include facial hair trims or shaves, facial massages, shampoo and conditioner, scalp

manipulation, and head massages that increase blood circulation to help with dandruff and growth of hair.

Even though Davis is a barber, she also works with women's hair, but at an additional cost. "Anybody who walks in and wants a cut, gets a cut," she said. To accommodate the female clientele, the shop is in search of a permanent beautician/stylist.

Currently, credit cards are not being accepted, but they will be in the near future, explained Davis. Barber services at the above prices are available to anyone with a military or government identification. There is an additional cost for people with no ID.

The barber shop is located next to the Post Exchange on YPG's Main Post. It's open Monday through Friday 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. For more information on styles and additional services, you can call the shop at 328-2888.

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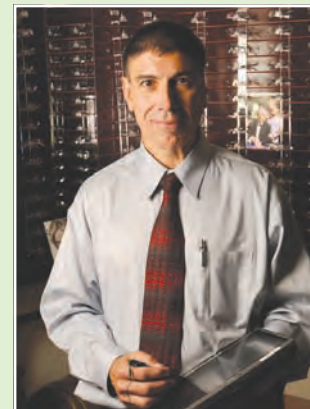
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