

## Using Arizona skies to make military parachute jumps safer

By Mark Schauer

In modern war, victory goes to the side that controls the air and the ground.

Although the evolution of Army doctrine and tactics has made mass combat jumps of paratroopers less frequent, they have taken place in virtually every large-scale deployment of American forces since World War II. The tactic has proven particularly useful for seizing isolated air fields deep behind enemy lines, which can then be used to receive and deploy more troops and armament. This has been done by American forces in both Iraq and Afghanistan.

A successful jump is far more complex than simply jumping out of an airplane. In flight,

mass jumpers can be impacted by the wing tip vortex created by all aircraft, even military cargo planes with wings sporting special finlets to help dissipate this downwash. The slow speed required to conduct a safe drop can also cause the C-17's to stall. To cope with this and other potential problems caused by excessive weight, C-17s have a maximum weight limit for flights that accommodate mass jumps.

"In the past, increasing the aircraft's weight has caused the C-17 to be at a very severe deck angle which changed airflow dynamics around the aircraft," said Keith Allen, test officer. "That's bad for Soldier's jumping out of the



(LOANED PHOTO)

SEE SKIES/3 Soldiers parachute safely using the newly adopted T-11 personnel parachute which was tested at YPG.

Deputy garrison manager brings lots of experience

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Impact of sequestration on Yuma Proving Ground/Page 2

Mics! Cameras! Dogs! '60 Minutes' films canine program

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# YPG gets high score on explosives review

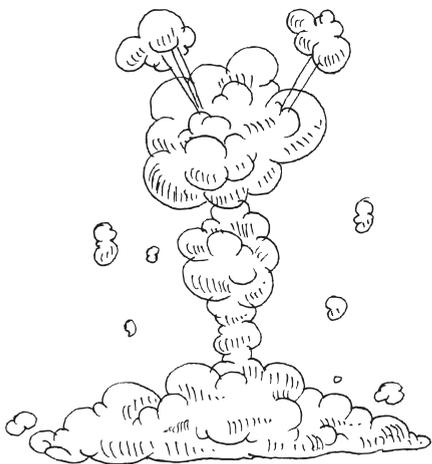
By Julio Dominguez, Technical Director

YPG scored a figurative home-run in the safety world early this month.

We were inspected by a team from the Department of Defense Explosive Safety Board (DDESB), the premier group of explosives experts that advises the Secretary of Defense and Service Secretaries on matters concerning explosives safety. After their inspection, the team awarded YPG a green rating (green meaning Overall Satisfactory Processes) **ON EVERY ONE** of the 16 areas the team inspects, among them safety management, range safety, site planning, training, and demilitarization and destruction.

An "overall satisfactory" score may not sound impressive on first glance, but, given the strict inspection criteria, to score as well as YPG did on this inspection is, without question, a truly notable achievement. The board inspects explosive facilities and operations across all four services and, by the inspection team's own account, comprehensive across-the-board satisfactory results like YPG's are extremely rare.

The team cited several facets of YPG's safety posture, including safety considerations inherent in the range test scheduling process, Yuma Test Center's range incident reporting process, and our routine use of hazard analysis working groups to mitigate hazards, as strengths and best practices. Of all the laudatory comments, the most significant (from my perspective) referred to YPG's safety culture. It was apparent to them from the discussions they had with YPG people and from their look at our procedures, the team said, that safety is paramount in what we do here.



I congratulate and thank everyone on YPG who works with explosives at all levels, from the people who receive and store them, to those who issue and prepare them, to those who fire them out of guns or otherwise initiate them on our ranges, and to those who develop, document and train the many processes for using them safely. The DDESB inspection results validate the thoroughness of our procedures and the safety-first mindset of our people.

The DDESB presence on YPG is sobering because part of their charter is to find deficiencies at the places they visit. The DDESB was established by Congress in 1928 in response to an accident at Lake Denmark, N.J., two years earlier that killed 21 people and injured 53 others. That the inspection team found no significant deficiencies at YPG is cause for celebration because deficiencies in procedures or training when handling explosives can be deadly. The challenge to us is to remain vigilant, to continue to follow procedures, to proactively find the safety deficiencies in our workplaces that can hurt someone, and to take steps to correct them. If we do these things, passing inspections like the one YPG passed last week, becomes routine. More importantly, **NOBODY GETS HURT.**

## Sequestration at YPG

By law, sequestration is to last 10 years and cut \$1.2 trillion of government spending (half from defense, half from non-defense). These across-the-board reductions to current year spending will take place beginning March unless legislation is enacted that avoids such reductions.

DoD is one of several government agencies that will experience a significant budget reduction. The department expects to receive \$46 billion less in the remainder of fiscal year 2013. Plans are currently being made for the furlough of approximately 800,000 civilian DoD employees for one day each week to achieve \$5 billion in savings. Other reductions will also take place.

For Yuma Proving Ground, approximately 700 government civilian employees are expected to be placed on a leave without pay status for eight hours each week during the remainder of the

fiscal year (22 weeks for a total of 176 hours), beginning April 25th. This cost savings will amount to approximately \$3.6 million.

Other cost saving measures currently being studied include adjusting amounts of funding going to contractors at the proving ground, of which there are over one dozen, with over one thousand employees. Sustainment dollars used for the maintenance and repair of buildings and other facilities at the proving ground are also to be decreased. Government travel has been severely restricted and the 2013 summer hire program, which provided on-the-job work experience to 21 college students last year, may be eliminated.

There have been several messages explaining the situation provided by email to all proving ground employees. More information will be provided as things become more certain.

## THE OUTPOST

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# SKIES

FROM PAGE 1

aircraft because that effects the deployment of parachutes.”

A joint project between the Army and the Air Force currently underway at YPG hopes to increase the C-17's gross cargo aircraft weight from its current 385,000 pounds to 400,000 pounds. The increase may seem relatively small, but it will have a big impact in projecting American force behind enemy lines.

“This is a big advantage,” said Allen. “You can carry more fuel in the aircraft. The higher weight

will allow for more onboard cargo capacity, plus it means more troops on the ground in less time.”

The mass-adoption of the newly adopted T-11 personnel parachute, which was extensively tested at YPG, makes increasing the gross weight much more plausible. The T-11's canopy deploys more slowly than its predecessor the T-10, and further away from the aircraft.

“We're interested in finding the minimum separation distance between exiting the aircraft simultaneously from both troop doors,” said Allen.

For the first phase of testing, YPG

evaluators uses torso mannequins with stubs for arms to simulate jumpers. The mannequins were ballasted with weight, then loaded onto an aluminum deployment rack specially designed and constructed by YPG engineers that is loaded into the cargo bay of the C-17. In the air, the aircraft's pilot has to fly directly into the wind to ensure wind doesn't skew test results. Even more complex, to perform a valid test, testers need to ensure the aircraft's weight is within a narrow range above or below its target, which can be difficult in a large platform that rapidly consumes heavy fuel. To cope with this reality, a refueling aircraft loiters in the air above the proving ground to refuel the C-17 in flight whenever necessary. Once each airdrop is complete, testers recover the landed parachutes, after which they undergo a meticulous inspection of the parachute systems for rips and tears.

“We're not just jumping and then repacking a system; we're

trying to do a full assessment,” said Allen. “Not only video and flight performance assessments, but we're also looking to see if something is happening on the fabric level of the system that could cause a problem. The recovery process is a bit lengthy because of this, but it's necessary.”

The test data is then subjected to a complex Monte Carlo statistical analysis that uses random samples from a large number of drops to plot probabilities and verify the minimum safe distance then compare them to already known values at lower aircraft weights.

“I don't know of another test center that can accommodate the amount of work this takes, for it takes range flexibility and the ability to capture and process a huge amount of high-resolution data,” said Allen. “It's important for the airborne community to be able to do all this in a one-stop shop, and we have the instrumentation and institutional knowledge to provide it.



(U.S. ARMY PHOTOS)

The first phase of testing, YPG evaluators used torso mannequins with stubs for arms to simulate jumpers.

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# Deputy garrison manager brings years of experience

By Staff Sgt. Tina Villalobos

Gordon Rogers earned his Bachelor of Science degree from Jacksonville State University in Jacksonville, Ala. and went straight into the Army through the Army ROTC program and served nearly three decades of military service.

“I served 27 years in the Army,” said Gordon Rogers, Deputy Garrison Manager at YPG. “I was mostly in operational units out in the field that deployed all over the world and retired as a Lt. Col., Chief of Leader Development United States Army Training and Doctrine Command at Fort Monroe, Va.”

After retiring from his military career, Rogers went to work as a contractor for the Army, and later became a Department of the Army civilian at Fort Monroe. His next move was to Arlington, Va., at installation management command headquarters, working on operations and unit stationing issues for nearly seven years.

Before embarking on his career at YPG, Rogers was the deputy garrison commander at Pohakuloa Training Area on the Big Island of Hawaii. While Hawaii may sound like paradise, Rogers explained it was nothing at all like Waikiki.

“It was very beautiful, but very austere because it was up on the side of a volcanic mountain,” said Rogers. “Pretty tough environment and very difficult weather to deal with.”

Rogers’ past experiences and education enable him to think creatively to benefit the proving ground, particularly during difficult economic times.

“The most challenging aspect of

my job is dealing with declining resources,” Rogers explained. “We work very hard to make sure we get everything we can out of every dollar that we get. It becomes more challenging every year, because we get less and less dollars. ... We are committed to doing the best we can with every resource that we have, and to do absolutely the very best job we can to provide support to the people who live and work here.”

The garrison provides a gamut of services to Soldiers, civilians and to contractors (to some extent), according to Rogers.

“We have about 200 Department of the Army civilian employees and another 200-300 contract employees,” Rogers explained. “We are responsible for all of the support activities that you would normally associate with an Army garrison, from Human Resources to Public Works to FMWR, to managing family housing.”

Although it is a small installation, according to Rogers, YPG has many facilities that are as good as, or better than, Soldiers and families would find on any installation.

With his experiences in the Army, and as a civilian in locations around the world, Rogers was impressed and surprised to find the range and depth of amenities and services provided by the YPG’s FMWR.

“This is a really outstanding organization. It has a really outstanding leader and a group of directors that are really good—in most cases, they’re the best that I’ve seen,” said Rogers.

With his sights on the future, Rogers has worked toward improving employee recognition and mentoring to help mold YPG’s future leadership.



(PHOTO BY STAFF SGT. TINA VILLALOBOS)

**Gordon Rogers, deputy garrison manager, works to provide top notch service, with an eye toward the future.**

“I’ve been working on the recognition programs for our employees to create opportunities for them in which they can be recognized for the great work that they do,” he said. “We run the Interactive Customer Evaluation (ICE) program here; we recognize those folks who do really well at customer service—we do that on a quarterly basis. We just initiated a garrison civilian of the quarter and civilian of the year program.”

Mentoring programs, developmental assignments, and other initiatives are designed with employee development in mind, according to Rogers. He explained that among the most gratifying elements of his job is to see employees grow professionally and accomplish increased responsibilities that allow them to develop in areas where, at least initially, they may not feel comfortable.

“When they’re given more responsibilities, it is gratifying to just being able to step back and let them go,” said Rogers. “To have them reach out and do the very best that they have the potential to do. It is a wonderful thing to watch them succeed and see the real boost it gave to them and their confidence. I think the most important thing that I do is to just facilitate and make it possible for all of these employees to be the very best that they can be.”

Aside from his job as deputy garrison manager—Rogers enjoys recreational pursuits as well.

“There are a lot of really great things to do that are not very far away,” Rogers explained. “We are kind of half way between San Diego, Phoenix and Tucson, and a little bit further to Las Vegas; anything you want to do is easily within a day’s drive at the farthest.”

# Chaplain's Corner

## Faith, optimism and community spirit

By Chaplain (Maj.) Loren Hutsell  
and Tina Villalobos

February 25, 1945, was one of the most important days for our nation during World War II. On that day, newspapers and magazines across our country graced the covers of their publications with Joe Rosenthal's picture of the Marines & Sailor hoisting our American flag over Iwo Jima. That picture instantly brought optimism, encouragement, energy, and renewed faith for Americans who were weary of the war effort. The hardships of war had brought struggle to families across the nation, and people were finding it very difficult to make ends meet. Why was that picture so powerful, and why did it bring so

much optimism? It was powerful because it renewed the spirit of our nation. It showed that with a focus on teamwork and reliance on each other, incredible odds and difficult circumstances can be overcome.

Whenever we face uncertainty and adversity, it's important to rely on one another. Asking for help is not a weakness. If you were swimming in the ocean and started to drown, you wouldn't reject a life preserver if it were thrown to you, so, don't feel bad about seeking help when you need it. There are excellent people and programs on YPG to assist you in times of need, or help you find the right kind of resource or help. There are a myriad of services provided by Army Community Services, Army One Source, and the

Chaplain, should you need someone to talk to, or some good advice. The point is; you don't have to face your problems alone. Besides, another person will probably need your help at some point too.

Asking God for help is also a good thing. Just as we can thank God for the many blessings we have in life, we can ask God to help us with our struggles and difficulties. It doesn't mean that we should expect to have all the answers set before us, but we can ask for strength, guidance, inspiration, and help to work through our problems. During times of difficulty, the Psalmist gives us this advice, "In the day of my trouble I will call upon You, for You will answer me," Psalms 86:7.

## Inspector General visits to be regular occurrence

By Mark Schauer

In a large organization such as the Department of Defense, an ordinary worker may be unaware who to contact to report concerns of waste, fraud, or misuse of government property or money.

When someone feels their concern isn't being addressed by their immediate supervisor or others in the proper chain of command, the office of the inspector general (IG) is available to help.

The Army Test and Evaluation Command (ATEC) Inspector General's (IG) office is now located at White Sands Missile Range (WSMR), and is available to anyone connected with the command, be it a Soldier, civilian worker, or family member.

"We provide four functions: assistance, investigations, inspections, and training," said Maj. James Weare, deputy command inspector general. "The majority of our cases come from pay issues or from people with a problem they don't know how to resolve."

The IG team wants to assure people that every possible effort will be made to ensure the confidentiality of anything disclosed to them.

"I don't have the authority to release any conversations with me that are documented in the IG system," said Charles Tucker, inspector. "No one in our office does."

With its new location at WSMR, the ATEC IG office is now geographically closer to the command's far-flung test centers. The team's goal is to make on-site visits to all test centers within ATEC once per quarter. They are ready and able to handle queries at any time, however.

"A person with an IG issue can pick up the phone or send an email anytime. We'll do whatever we have to do to follow up on the issue: you don't have to wait for us to be here in person."

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# Mics! Cameras! Dogs!

CBS television program '60 Minutes' takes time to visit Yuma Proving Ground's canine training facility

By Chuck Wullenjohn

The CBS television network began airing the award winning program "60 Minutes" in 1968, but had never set aside time to visit the Army's busiest proving ground, Yuma Proving Ground, until late last week. Over the course of two mid-February days, the CBS crew focused their cameras on military working dog training occurring year round, training that has saved an untold number of American lives in combat areas overseas.

Producer Reuben Heyman-Kantor was impressed with the local landscape that closely resembles what he has seen on visits to Afghanistan and Iraq, and the close interaction he witnessed between working dogs and their military handlers.

"This is an amazing facility and I'm glad we traveled across the country to see it," he said. "YPG is one of the premier military dog training facilities in the nation, as people at other installations have told us."

The central theme of the 60 Minutes story deals with the high tech nature of today's military that still relies on the unique capabilities of working dog teams to search out hidden explosives, as well as tracking and other tasks. The dog's keen senses of smell and hearing make them far more effective at detecting explosive dangers than humans.

Marine Capt. Shawn Locklear,

officer-in-charge of the training class the 60 Minutes crew filmed, accompanied the crew as it visited YPG's kennel facilities, its canine village training area and the small arms firing range.

"The key to training a dog is repetition," he said as he watched, and the CBS crew filmed, military handlers firing rounds at targets while dogs advanced at their sides. Some dogs jumped up and down from the loud crack of the firing, while others took it in stride. "Dogs naturally try to protect their handlers by attacking the weapon. The more often they experience the shock and sound, the easier it is for them to adapt. By and large, the dogs today are outstanding."

The Marines and Soldiers taking the course aren't used to camera crews running around on a daily basis, an initial distraction that quickly vanished. "We told them to focus on the task at hand, but I know it was exciting for everyone," said Locklear.

Army Sgt. Eric Conway, who traveled from Camp Zama, Japan, is an experienced working dog handler learning advanced skills at the three week YPG course. He took the television crew visit in stride.

"Training is training," he said as he relaxed after loading his weapons. "The members of the camera crew are in the background doing what they do, the end result getting the word out about what we do and the

SEE DOGS/8

"We told them to focus on the task at hand, but I know it was exciting for everyone."

— Marine Capt. Shawn Locklear, whose canine class was filmed for a segment on '60 Minutes'



The dog as well as the Soldier are prepared with protective equipment as they enter one of the buildings at Yuma Proving Ground's canine village.

CBS film crew (above) in the background doing what they do as dog training course continues on. Longtime 60 Minutes Reporter Lara Logan (at right) conducts a one-on-one interview with Gunnery Sgt. Chris Knight, also known as the "dog whisperer."

PHOTOS BY MARK SCHAUER



CBS television camera men, video as Gunnery Sgt. Chris Knight conducts training.

# Mesquite II at Mesa Del Sol



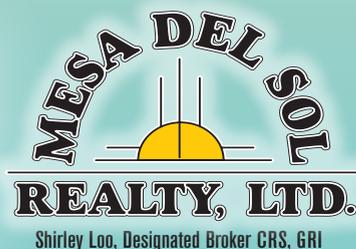
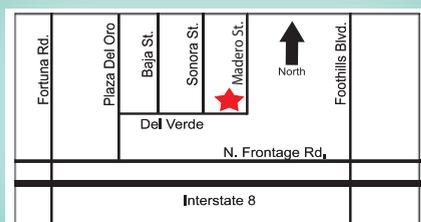
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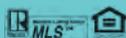
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## Black History Month celebrated at YPG

The Yuma Proving Ground workforce and local community residents were treated to an authentic Soul/Southern food sampling event in observance and celebration of Black History Month. Members of the Black History Committee, provided food items to include collard greens, barbecue ribs, chicken wings, salads, corn bread and a variety of homemade desserts. The event was held at Michaels Community Center.

In addition to this event, the committee also held a luncheon with guest speaker on Thursday, Feb. 28th.

(PHOTO BY MARK SCHAUER)



## DOGS

FROM PAGE 6

importance of our training. In my opinion, this is the most important job in the Army."

The CBS crew says the program will air before the conclusion of the 60 Minutes broadcast season in mid-May, probably on Sunday, April 14. The viewing audience will range between 10 and 15 million people. The entire segment will last 12 minutes, with the YPG portion about one-third of that.

The seven-person crew arrived in town by air with nearly 50 pieces of luggage including cameras, lights, sound equipment and a great deal more. One person stated they spent over \$1000 in airline excessive baggage costs.

Longtime 60 Minutes Reporter Lara Logan headed the crew. A veteran of multiple visits, some lasting months,

to Afghanistan and Iraq, she was assaulted by a mob two years ago while covering political unrest in Cairo, Egypt. The culmination of the YPG visit was a detailed interview conducted by Logan with course instructor Gunnery Sgt Chris Knight, a man recognized as a dog training expert throughout the military working dog world. Some call him the "dog whisperer."

Knight is passionate about his work, fully believing in the value of what he does. "Dogs save lives in combat areas and offer a service no man can offer," he said. "If dogs or handlers can't get it right in our training, they certainly won't be able to perform well in combat." About 20 percent of the dogs in classes supervised by Knight are washed out.

"What I do is much more than a job to me," he stated to Logan while the cameras rolled. "This is my life. I have zero intention of doing anything other than training dogs in my life."

## Annual 4.5 mile 'Y' Run takes place at YPG



(PHOTO BY STEVE WARD)

Nearly two dozen Yuma Proving Ground military, civilian personnel and dependents took part in the annual 4.5 mile "Y"Run, which takes place on a YPG road terminating in a "Y" intersection. The run took place Wednesday, February 6 in the early evening. Everyone received a trophy, but one individual completed the entire run in 28 minutes and 54 seconds. The event has taken place each year at YPG since 1994.

**Next Outpost deadline is noon March 7**

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# Did you know: Stressful life events may cause depression

Submitted by Paul J. Kilanski,  
Family Advocacy Program Specialist

Depression can happen to anyone. It is an illness that can be brought on by stressful life events. Deployment, injuries and long separation from family may contribute to depression for military members and military families.

Being unhappy now and then is normal. But feeling sad and unhappy for more than two weeks could mean that you are depressed. You are not alone! Many people experience depression at some point in life. Depression is not a sign of weakness and cannot be "willed" away. The trauma of war, living far from family or the stress of holidays can trigger depression. Depression is one of the most common mental illnesses in the U.S. and is also the most treatable.

Depression is a medical illness like diabetes or heart disease. It can be treated. In many cases, you can be treated for depression and still be on active duty. See a doctor or health care provider. They can help find a treatment plan that works for you. Talk to your chaplain, trusted friend or commanding officer. Contact your military family service or support center. The most important thing is to get help. With the right treatment, most people who seek help get

better. Remember, if you are not at your best your job performance may suffer.

Help yourself feel better. Eat a healthy diet. Avoid alcohol and other drugs. Make a point to exercise, even if you don't feel like it. Get enough sleep.

Some symptoms of depression are: feeling sad or hopeless, being tired or having trouble concentrating, not eating enough or eating too much, trouble sleeping or sleeping too much, feeling bad about yourself, feeling irritable or crying a lot, having headaches and body pain, not enjoying things that used to be fun, thoughts or attempts of suicide. If you have several of these symptoms most days and they last for more than a few weeks, you may be suffering from depression.

Depression after loss is common. Being in and around military may mean having to cope with death or serious injury. This can be one of life's most traumatic experiences. Remember it is healthy to grieve. Try to express your emotions. It's okay to cry or talk about how you feel. Don't ignore or deny your feelings. Avoiding the pain now can lead to emotional problems like depression in the future. If you feel depressed be sure to get help. Most people treated for depression will improve, even those with serious depression.

## VIEWPOINTS

In observance of Women's History Month, we asked the following question: Who has been the most influential female in your life?



**Melva Farmer**  
Property Book Officer, LOG

Patricia Schroeder is the most influential woman for me. She was among the first women from Colorado to become a member of the House of Representatives—and was also a mother and a wife. She showed other women hope and she inspired me to join the military.

**Ethel Bonner**  
Human Resource Specialist, CPAC

To me, Harriet Tubman is the most influential woman in history. I'm inspired by the selflessness of women who have done great things. I'm inspired by her determination, her courage, her concern for the rights of others over her own safety, and her commitment to the cause.



**Betsy Baker**,  
Property Book Technician, LOG

My mom is the most influential woman in my life, because she has always been supportive of any decision I have made, even if she did not agree.



**Victor Brown**,  
Supply Specialist, LOG

I find Margaret Thatcher to be an influential woman because she was a strong leader, and I admire her strength. She was the longest serving prime minister of the UK, and she was the only woman to have ever held that post. She was nicknamed the Iron Lady.

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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 Retired Air Force Senior Flight Surgeon and State Air Surgeon for the Arizona National Guard with 27 years of military service.

Having performed more than 15,000 surgeries, he is regarded as one of the state's leading eye surgeons.

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# ROBERT IRVINE LIVE



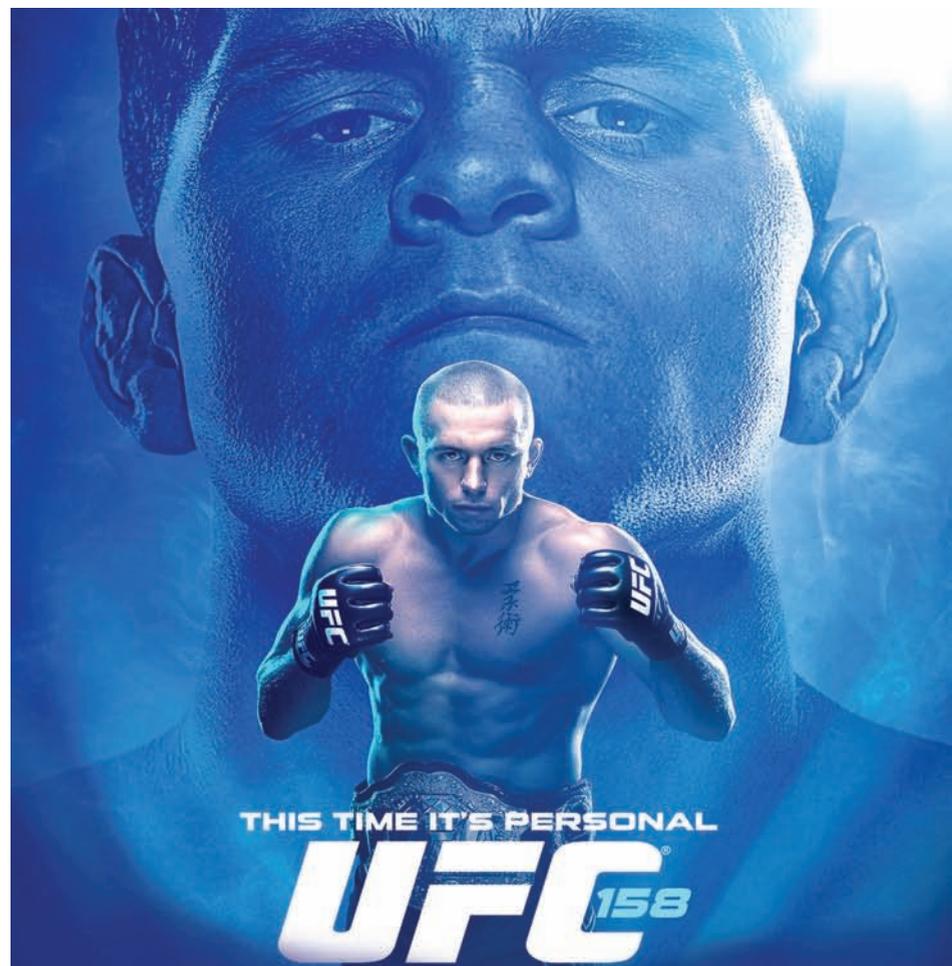
CHEF ROBERT IRVINE HAS NO KNOWLEDGE OF THE  
CULINARY CHALLENGES HE IS ABOUT TO FACE

**LIVE ON STAGE**

**MARCH 16 • 8:00PM**  
PIPA EVENT CENTER

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**UFC 158**

WORLD WELTERWEIGHT CHAMPIONSHIP  
**ST. PIERRE vs DIAZ**  
CONDIT vs MacDONALD

**SATURDAY, MARCH 16**  
7PM PARADISE BINGO HALL  
**MUST BE 21**



**Paradise**  
**CASINO**