

# THE OUTPOST

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

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Published for the employees and families of Yuma Proving Ground, Yuma Test Center, U.S. Army Garrison — Yuma, Cold Regions Test Center and Tropic Regions Test Center

## ATEC welcomes new commanding general

Story by **ROBIN BOGGS**  
**ATEC Public Affairs**

In oppressive morning heat, Maj. Gen. Genaro J. Dellarocco relinquished command of the U.S. Army Test and Evaluation Command to Maj. Gen. Peter D. Utley at the ATEC Headquarters at Aberdeen Proving Ground July 16. Dellarocco commanded ATEC for nearly three years.

Surrounded by colleagues, community leaders, friends and family, Dellarocco passed a unit flag for the last time. He retired last month after 35 years of service. Utley took command following three years as the deputy chief of staff, operations and training, at the U.S. Army Training and Doctrine Command at Fort Eustis, Va.

Vice Chief of Staff of the Army Gen. John F. Campbell presided over the ceremony. In line with tradition, Campbell passed the ATEC

colors from Dellarocco to Utley. With his position as commanding general established, Utley passed the flag to Command Sgt. Maj. Carlton Handy, ATEC's top enlisted Soldier, for safekeeping.

Campbell, who is no stranger to the work of the ATEC team, first commended the workforce on its success in supporting the national military strategy.

"You truly are the Army's experts in the test and evaluation of Soldier equipment," he said. Campbell noted that he has firsthand experience of the great work ATEC and the FOA teams, particularly while serving as commander of Regional Command-East in Afghanistan.

"You're truly saving lives and making a difference with all our Soldiers."

He then turned the attention on Dellarocco.

In an award ceremony before the change of command where Dellarocco received the Distinguished Service Medal, Campbell polled the workforce on words to describe Dellarocco.

Campbell also noted that Dellarocco took on the challenge of creating a leaner organization resulting in approximately \$900 million in cost savings and avoidance for the command and nearly \$98 million in cost savings and avoidance during Network Integration Evaluations. NIEs are a series of semi-annual, Soldier led evaluations designed to further integrate and rapidly progress the Army's tactical network.

"Gino's aggressive Lean Six Sigma program has created a culture of efficiency that has flattened the organization, eliminated redundancies, and provided better integration across the



entire command," he said.

Campbell then welcomed Utley as the new commander of ATEC. "The Army's real asset is our bench strength," he said. "Ingoing and outgoing commanders are cut from same cloth, and we are fortunate to have Pete Utley assume command of ATEC."

Utley comes to ATEC

from the other side of the pendulum, said Campbell.

"He brings vast expertise from the training and doctrine side of the Army and will provide the Soldier's perspective to the command to take Gino's vision to the next level."

He added that Utley's

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## CHAPLAIN'S CORNER

# 'Count your Blessings' and greetings from your new Chaplain

Submitted by Chaplain (Maj.) Douglas Thomison

Hello from the Yuma Proving Ground Chapel. My name is Douglas Thomison, your new installation chaplain. I come to you from Fort Sam Houston, Texas along with my wife, Rosamund, son, Gabriel, and daughter, Leah. We truly appreciate the warm welcome to YPG, which substantiates my notion and request to come to YPG (yes, I asked to come here).

Thinking of YPG people, I encourage you to stay positive. Optimism can be contagious. However, I do not want to "candy coat" YPG. There are many challenges folks are undergoing here such as mandatory furlough as well as everyone's own personal issues. If you are not feeling too optimistic today, here is one way to turn that around. Start by thinking of the things you do have and can

be thankful for. For example, faith, family, friends, vocation, health, hobbies, etc.

There is a hymn entitled, "Count Your Blessings." It starts off by saying, "Count your blessings, name them one by one, count your blessings, see what God hath done!" Then asks the question: "Are you ever burdened with a load of care? Does the cross seem heavy you are called to bear? Count your many blessings, every doubt will fly, And you will keep singing as the days go by." This song is not glossing over our worries, but rather has us examine or process them and do something with them. Try it.

Once again, thank you for your warm welcome. Please feel free to come to the chapel for worship or activities or simply drop by to say hello. I look forward to serving as your YPG Chaplain. May God be with you today.



Chaplain (Maj.) Douglas Thomison comes to YPG from Fort Sam Houston, Texas.

## WELCOMES

FROM PAGE 1

multiple tours and Joint assignments are the correct mix to keep testing above par. "He's the right officer at the right time, and I'm excited that he's joining this headquarters."

In closing, Dellarocco welcomed Utley to ATEC and reminded the workforce that there's still work to be done.

"You're getting a new commander – Pete Utley – and from my foxhole, I think the transformation is about to begin," he said. "We set a good stage for him, and the budget provides a great opportunity to reshape the formation to even better than we are today."

Maintaining tradition, Utley kept his remarks brief. He thanked the audience for the warm welcome and said it was an "honor and "privilege" to be selected by Army leadership to command this very unique unit."

Utley had never been to Aberdeen Proving Ground; however, as an Armor officer, he knew the legacy of APG in testing Abrams tanks and Bradley fighting vehicles – vehicles

imperative to the Armor units in which he served.

Utley offered three imperatives to the ATEC workforce on which he will command: mission first, people always, and the Army Profession.

"Our main effort must be accomplishment of the mission; and we will use the mission command philosophy to drive the conduct of the mission but, most importantly, to spur innovation," he said. He continued to outline the foundation of the three imperatives noting the care of the workforce and the Army Profession will help guide ATEC as it moves forward.

"Our most precious resources are our Soldiers, Department of the Army civilians and contractors, and we cannot accomplish the mission without them," he said. "Our primary responsibility is to lead and to care for them. We have a professional responsibility to coach, teach and mentor our subordinates."

To close, Utley encouraged the workforce and acknowledged that through teamwork the command will continue to provide a great service to the Army.

## THE OUTPOST

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# Graves brings best practices to YPG's Emergency Services

By Staff Sergeant Tina Villalobos

Christopher Graves brings more than three decades of experience to his job as Director of Emergency Services (DES) at Yuma Proving Ground. He began his federal career as a GS-03, and has focused on law enforcement throughout his career.

Graves' plethora of public safety expertise has developed through exposure to best practices cultivated from his experiences in several duty stations stateside, as well as Alaska and Hawaii.

"I arrived here November 4, 2012," said Graves. "I was in Hawaii before this, but it was time to get back to the 48 contiguous states—I was in Alaska prior to that, then, Hawaii three and a half years, and Alaska for two years. Then I worked at the Sierra Army Depot as the director of risk management for two years. I was at Fort Hunter Liggett as the Chief of Police for about 13 years and at Fort Ord prior to that."

Graves said spent his first six months at YPG observing and learning about the organization and existing methods of operation. His upcoming challenges include plans for streamlining operational aspects of his department. He plans to bring more operational structure and create some matrices. Although his plans include some technical aspects, the planned changes, according to Graves, are primarily administrative.

"Yuma is a small installation as far as the number of people and the business of DES," said Graves. "The ability to bring change that makes sense and streamlining the operation is very rewarding to me. I like the challenge of working with the people and helping them to understand why we are doing what we are doing and getting their buy-in."

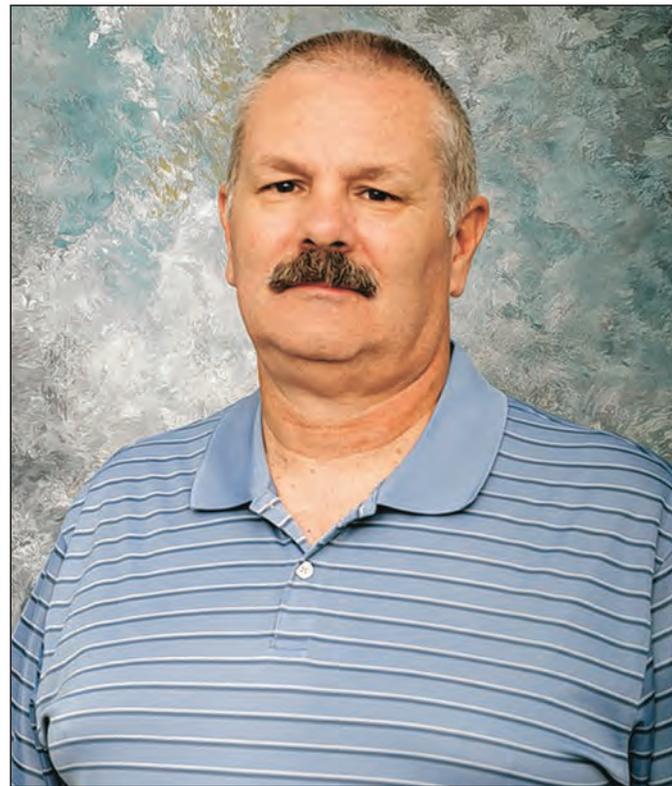
Although a relatively small installation, Yuma Proving Ground provides structural, wild land, and ambulance services including paramedics. The post has many requirements and offers a variety of services. YPG has an airfield among its amenities—which requires public safety services in the event of an emergency. All dispatching is also provided on post for 911 services. YPG's fire and law enforcement professionals are required to keep their credentials up-to-date and their skills sharp.

"Our people constantly train, and train, and train to provide the best services possible from both fire and police," said Graves. "We have to start doing some DNA sampling for certain offenses (there was a recent Supreme Court ruling on that). Some of these changes will result in additional training opportunities for some officers."

The goal of YPG's Department of Public Safety, according to Graves, is to provide a safe and secure environment for the Soldiers and families who live on YPG, as well as the people who work and visit the installation.

As we restructure, we will streamline things and make it easier to accomplish our work," said Graves. "We are going to provide a 'one-stop shop' for commanders that need different information for things on our blotter—from blotter entries, police reports, etc. We will streamline everything, so everyone knows where everything is at. Streamlining for us just makes it easier for the public."

Graves' has earned numerous accolades through the span of his career as a result of his achievements and innovations.



Christopher Graves brings more than three decades of experience to his job as Director of Emergency Services (DES) at Yuma Proving Ground.

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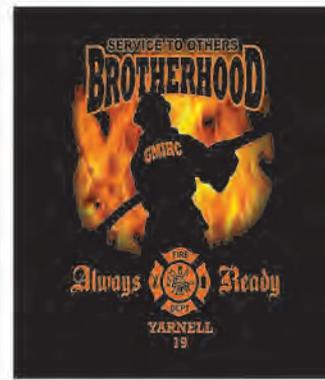
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## New horizons for 20-year Army Soldier



(PHOTO BY MARK SCHAUER)

During a recent retirement ceremony, Sgt. 1st Class Paul Rivera of Yuma Proving Ground's Airborne Test Force, was presented with the following awards: Presidential Certificate of Appreciation; Certificate of Retirement; Retirement Pin, The American Flag; Yuma Test Center's Desert Rat Certificate and the Unit's memoir. Rodriguez, who served 20 years of active duty, served in numerous positions in the airborne field throughout his military career. He was instrumental in the implementation and execution of a myriad of developmental tests culminating in the continuing process of strengthening our nation's Army by continuing to help increase its aerial delivery. Rivera, a native of Brooklyn, N.Y., awards and decorations include the Meritorious Service Medal; Army Commendation Medal, Army Achievement Medal, Army Superior Unit Award, Drill Sergeant Identification Badge; Military Freefall Test Parachutist Certification Program Manager; and the Military Freefall Badge-Jump Master, to name a few. Rivera will remain in the Yuma area along with his family.



## Hot Shot Golf Tournament of Yuma to Benefit the Victims of the Yarnell Fires & Families of Yarnell, Arizona's 19 Heroes

Tournament Entry and Sponsorship Form

**When:** August 10th, 2013

**Time:** 7:00 a.m. registration with 8:00 a.m. shotgun start

**Where:** Desert Hills Golf Course and Las Barrancas Golf Course will play host to the Business & Civilian Community. Coyote Wash Golf Course will play host to the Border Patrol, Law Enforcement & Fire Fighting Community. Foothills Par 3 Course will play host to the Family and Short Course Golfers. Juniors are free.

**Format:** 4 Person Team Scramble. The combined team handicap must total 60 or more. Only 1 player with a 5 Handicap or less will be allowed per team. There is a 1 Drive quota per player. 10% of the combined team Handicap will be deducted from the team's total score.

**Individual or Team Entry:** \$75 per player or \$300 per team.

Entry fee includes green & cart fee, t-shirt, and entry to Waylon's Water World at the conclusion of golf for each player.

You must wear your t-shirt for free entry to waterpark.

**Team & Hole Sponsor:** \$400

Entry fee includes green & cart fee, t-shirt, and entry to Waylon's Water World at the conclusion of golf for each player, plus a tee sign showing your support of the event.

You must wear your t-shirt for free entry to waterpark.

**Business or Community Leader Sponsor:** \$150

Fee includes a tee sign on the course of your choice showing your support of the event plus a t-shirt and entry to Waylon's Water World at the conclusion of golf for one person.

You must wear your t-shirt for free entry to waterpark.

**Tee Sign Sponsor:** \$100

Fee includes a tee sign on the course of your choice showing your support of the event.



For more information call: Tony Silva at 928-344-9042; Becky Zeller at 928-210-7420; Laurie Quickenton at 928-446-2709.

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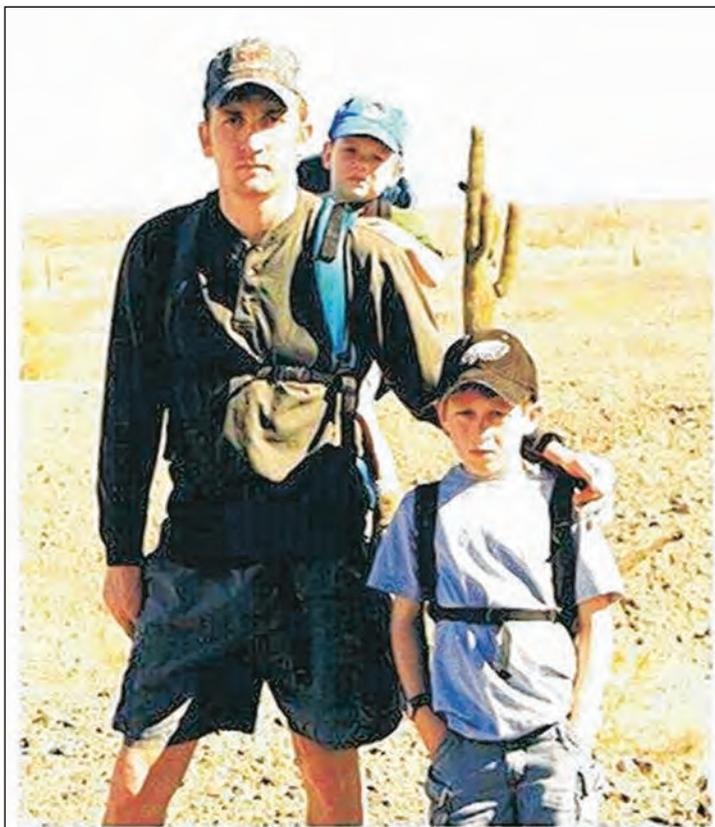
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Sgt. 1st Class Mark "Shane" Raker, an instructor for the Military Freefall School, died in 2003 during a nighttime training exercise at Phillips Drop Zone at the proving ground. Last month, the flags waving over YPG flew in honor of Raker. His sons, pictured here with their father, are now 18 and 12.

## Flags fly to honor deceased Soldier

By Teri Womack, Marketing Specialist

Our nation's flag waves proudly over Yuma Proving Ground around the clock at two locations, the Main Administrative Area and in front of the headquarters offices within the Range Operations Center. Most employees are used to viewing the flags and, for many, they represent symbols of freedom that instill a great sense of pride in our hearts. But early last month, the flags waving over YPG evoked an even deeper meaning in the hearts and minds of the family and friends of Sgt. 1st Class Mark "Shane" Raker.

Raker, an instructor for the Military Freefall School, died in 2003 during a nighttime training exercise at Phillips Drop Zone at the proving ground. A memorial service was held at the post chapel that was full to capacity as family, friends and fellow Soldiers gathered to honor his memory. He had served at YPG for about two years and was survived by his wife Michelle and sons Joshua and Conner.

At the request of family friends, the flags over the proving ground flew for Raker on July 1st, his birthday. In the

written request, he was described as a great father and that his sons not only respected him, but admired him for serving our country. Since 2003, wife Michelle has kept his memory alive with his sons, who continue to miss him.

The flags, along with photos and certificates signed by Col. Reed Young, commander, and Command Sgt. Maj. Keith West, were mailed afterward to Joshua, now 18 years old, and 12 year old Conner to honor their father, a great soldier who served Yuma Proving Ground, the Army and our nation.

Sgt. Maj. (ret) Luis Arroyo, Chief of Yuma Test Center's Training Exercise Management Office, was the Military Freefall School's sergeant major at the time of the mishap and recalls Raker well.

"Ranger Raker was a Soldier's soldier, a leader amongst leaders and a role model to countless Freefall School students," he said. "He never forgot where he came from and never compromised standards. It is never easy to lose someone, but even harder to lose a Ranger.

He addressed his final message to Raker. "Ranger Raker; carry on to your Ranger objective! See you at the ORP!"

## Volunteer Leave Donation Program update

We have YPG family members in need of assistance. Leave donations as small as one hour are truly 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 a small number of employees on the VLTP recipient list:

- Hickey, Christine, MICC, death of family member
- Lemme, Audra, Mission RM, son continues to suffer from ongoing health complications; care and death of terminally ill father
  - \*Mitson, Scott, YTC, surgery
- Packham, Ursula, Mission Plans & Ops, birth of child
  - Ruble, Maribel, MICC, birth of child
- Smith, Nathan, NEC, family member medical emergency
  - \*New to the program

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, just complete the Optional Form 630-A and forward it back 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.

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# Laguna Army Airfield boasts wealth of capabilities

By Mark Schauer

An essential part of Yuma Proving Ground's test activities occur in the skies far above the proving ground's vast ranges. From helicopters to unmanned aircraft, the cutting edge airframes military aviators depend on are tested and weaponized from the proving ground's six airfields, some in remote areas. The largest of these, however, is Laguna Army Airfield (LAAF).

With roots dating back to World War II and then-Camp Laguna, LAAF has served the proving ground's air delivery and aviation missions since their inception here in the late 1950s. The venerable airfield has seen a great deal of history ever since, from hosting flights that supported initial testing of the Global Positioning Satellite (GPS) in the 1970s to serving as the takeoff point for the largest-ever payload extracted from a C-17 aircraft, which was done in 2009 in support of a test for the National Aeronautics Space Administration (NASA).

After a significant runway improvement project in 2008, the airfield is well-poised to handle the explosive growth in aircraft testing. Whether it is monitoring experimental aircraft in flight, conducting range over flights for visitors, or standing by at remote test locations in case an injured tester has to be ferried to medical attention, the airfield's pilots each fly between 200 and 350 hours per year in support of YPG's mission, and have lengthy service records in the air across their careers. Many are former officers or warrant officers.

"Our average flight time for pilots is about 8,000 hours," said Ralph Arnold, LAAF chief. "Most are dual rated to fly airplanes and helicopters, and we fly whatever mission comes up. We can perform a wide variety of missions, from being radar targets to supporting a NASA drop."

Conversely, the aircraft in LAAF's

fleet are well within their usable lifespans. Even the workhorses of the proving ground's air fleet, the venerable UH-1 Iroquois, better known as the "Huey," helicopters that date from the mid-1970s, are surprisingly pristine for their age and experience. The same helicopters that supported testing of the Global Positioning Satellite in the late 1970s are still used for state-of-the-art testing today.

"Flight-time wise, these aircraft are pretty young," said Mike Wertepny, lead Huey mechanic. "Our bird with the most flight time has only 6,300 hours on it. If you go into the civilian world, you'll see many with over 10,000 hours."

Not only that, but the Hueys have accumulated an astonishing array of modifications as they have supported the test mission over the decades, along with the complicated written permissions the Army requires prior to doing so. There have even been improvements in support of missions outside those the proving ground ordinarily does. For example, several years ago, YPG's Huey participated in a test at Dugway Proving Ground that involved spraying chemical stimulants. To accommodate the test, the helicopters had to be outfitted with spray rigs consisting of a 20-foot boom and tanks, and compressors and motors to propel the spray. All of this was designed, fabricated and installed in-house.

"We can do almost anything with our helicopters," said Arnold. "They have so many modifications to them that we can put test articles inside or outside."

Additionally, the airfield's mechanics can repair all but the most catastrophic mechanical damage in-house, be it with the Huey's or on their three brand new, UH-72 Lakota helicopters, which are used primarily as medical evacuation platforms when tests of dangerous equipment take place far downrange. As for fixed wing aircraft, LAAF's



Bill Parish (left) and Juan Zuniga work on the propeller of one of the airfield's Casa 212 airplanes. The airfield's pilots each fly between 200 and 350 hours per year in support of YPG's mission, and have lengthy service records in the air across their careers. (PHOTO BY MARK SCHAUER)

test workhorse is currently the Cessna Caravan, which was acquired in 2009.

"The Caravan is a real asset these days because we use it as a UAS surrogate," said Arnold. "When systems are originally designed, they are too large to fit on a conventionally sized UAS. We'll test a proof of concept design on a Caravan until it is small enough to fit on the UAS."

Outfitting the aircraft with these test systems is a complicated task that presents no problem to the air field's maintenance workers, even

when configuring them requires rewiring and other time-consuming modifications.

"It's matching the technology of the aircraft, which is older than the rack we are installing, and trying to match the electrical components together so they'll operate and provide the customer with a good product," said Stuart Smith, mechanic.

In addition, the airfield hosts high performance fighter aircraft, though not as many as it might in the future.

"Harriers land here all the time,"

SEE AIRFIELD/10

# YPG Garrison holds quarterly recognition ceremony

Employee Wellness, Ready and Resilient was the theme of the Garrison Employee Recognition Ceremony and Intramural Challenge held late last month at the fitness center. Nearly 45 employees received recognition for the following awards:

## Length of Service:

Robert Verdugo of MWR received a 10 year award

Ron Van Why of Safety received a 20 year award

Department of Emergency Services:

Terry Talley received a 35 year award

Kevin Horton-5 years

Samuel Moore-30 years

Charles Beck-35 years

Dennis Fijalkowski-40 Years

The recipient of the prestigious Garrison Civilian of the Quarter Award was given to

Cheryl Orgeron, Budget Analyst in the Directorate of Resource Management. She also received the

Army Achievement Medal for Civilian Service for outstanding support. Evaleen Ballard, Angelica Bharat and Jean Clark also received the Army Achievement Medal for Civilian Service for outstanding support

contributions.

The Military Personnel and Education Center received Certificates of Excellence for customer service and Army Community Service (ACS) received special recognition from senior leadership in the Installation Management Command for acquiring their National Accreditation Certificate.

Another group of employees were recognized for their participation and completion with the Six Month Wellness and Fitness pilot program: Robert Barocio, Christi Bowman, Michael Castaneda, Tom Cimins, Ellen Cunningham, Marc Ellis, Frank Garcia, Linda Gillis, Rhonda Larose, Robert Rodriguez, Juanita Saez, Ron Van Why, Joemann Bailey, Lashunda Blevins, Lorra Greene, William Heidner, and Reginald Willoughby were provided with Certificates of Completion.

The final groups to be recognized were those who completed their national certification, professional development, Army Civilian Education System Courses (CES) and academic degrees: Hernel Aitken-Master of



(LOANED PHOTO)

Gordon Rogers (back to camera), deputy manager for Garrison, presents Cheryl Orgeron with the Garrison Civilian of the Quarter Medal as Rick Martin, Garrison Manager, looks on.

Business Administration

Christopher Lee – National certification as a Substance Abuse Professional

Kurt Miers – Certified Building Inspector, Management Planner, & Risk Assessor

Rudolfo Rodriguez- CES Intermediate Resident (Phase II) course

Ron Van Why – Professionally certified Safety and Health Manager (CSHM), Environmental Specialist (ES) & Industrial Hygiene Manager.

Juliana Beckendorf –Professional paramedics certification

Kevin Buckeley-Professional paramedics certification

Lorra Greene-CES Intermediate Resident (Phase II) course

Angelina Pinto-Master of Science in Predictive Analytics and the CES Intermediate Resident (Phase II) Course

Scott Wilson-Professional paramedics certification

Concluding the ceremony, the Garrison workforce

gathered together for the spirited intramural challenge. SNAP Fitness of Yuma kicked off the challenge with a quick strength and warm-up. People participated in various activities such as a 3 on 3 half court basketball tournament, free throwing basketball and ping pong challenges. The YPG Health Clinic Occupational Health Nurse provided a nutrition class to those seeking information on staying healthy.

## SAFETY CORNER

# What to do when the roads are wet and wild

- Prevent skids by driving slowly and carefully, especially on curves. Use a light touch when steering and braking.

- If you do find yourself in a skid, remain calm, ease your foot off the gas and carefully steer in the direction you want the front of the car to go. You must be prepared to turn the steering wheel repeatedly until your vehicle is traveling in a straight line. For cars without anti-lock brakes, avoid using your brakes if possible. If your car has

ABS, brake firmly as you steer into the skid.

- Avoid hydroplaning by keeping your tires inflated correctly. Maintain good tire tread. Don't put off replacing worn tires. Slow down when roads are wet and stay away from puddles. Try to drive in the tire tracks left by the cars in front of you.

- If you find yourself hydroplaning, do not brake or turn suddenly, as this could throw your car into a skid. Ease your foot off the gas until the car

slows and you can feel the road again. If you need to brake and your vehicle doesn't have ABS, do it gently with light pumping actions. If your car has ABS, then brake normally. The car's computer will automatically pump the brakes much more effectively than a person can do.

- A defensive driver adjusts his or her speed to the wet road conditions in time to avoid having to use any of these measures.

Remember: "NOBODY GETS HURT."



# YPG bulks up social media presence

By Chuck Wullenjohn

The speed of communication increases each year, at a momentum that will grow faster as the world moves into the future. Once upon a time, a military installation commander could rest on his or her communication laurels once regular staff meetings were established, a base newspaper was published and distributed, and bulletin boards for displaying flyers were set up around the installation.

But no more. The world has changed and people have greater expectations. People frequently want information "right now."

The communication revolution has been taking place for many years, with YPG establishing its first external website way back in the 1990's. For many years, maintaining the external YPG website ([www.yuma.army.mil](http://www.yuma.army.mil)), in addition to the proving ground's other communication efforts, proved to work out fine. As a matter of fact, the popular website is being revamped right now and will be released soon in a cleaner, more informative way organized around the Army's standard website template. It will be better than any previous YPG website, but is far from the end of YPG's public communication plan.

In April of last year, YPG established an official *Yuma Proving Ground* facebook site ([www.facebook.com/USAYPG](http://www.facebook.com/USAYPG)) that has garnered nearly 675 "likes" from the public. The site incorporates hundreds of photographs and is updated several times each week. Feedback has been positive and real efforts have been devoted to make sure the Facebook site's contents remain current and interesting.

In recent months, YPG has moved further into the social media world by establishing sites on *YouTube*,

*LinkedIn* and *Twitter*. *YouTube*, as many know, is a repository for videos of all types, from old television programs and music videos to newly produced productions of all types, some by amateurs and some by professionals. YPG's **YouTube** site ([www.youtube.com/yumaprovingground](http://www.youtube.com/yumaprovingground)) consists of eleven assorted videos any member of the public may view, free of charge, at any time. Included are overviews on each of the YPG test centers, test program videos showing explosions, NASA parachute drops, and digitized versions of vintage command briefings.

*Twitter* is an excellent communication tool that limits messages to no more than 140 characters. This means written statements, called "tweets," have to be condensed and to the point. During times of emergency, this is a great way of sharing breaking information with people using a computer or smart phone. The YPG *Twitter* site is located at: [www.twitter.com/ypg\\_az](http://www.twitter.com/ypg_az)

Many people involved in the social media world particularly enjoy *LinkedIn* because it is business-oriented and straightforward, without the bright colors and flash of Facebook. YPG's *LinkedIn* site ([www.linkedin.com/company/us-army-yuma-proving-ground](http://www.linkedin.com/company/us-army-yuma-proving-ground)) calmly describes the features of Yuma Test Center, Cold Regions Test Center and the Tropic Regions Test Center, with the hope of igniting the interest of future customers.

Looking over past decades, observers know the communications world has never been static. Newspapers were once printed on clunky printing presses and each page was manually designed and typeset. All photographs once were taken on 35mm or 120 format film. Today, newspapers are designed

on a computer and are photographs invariably digital.

Many readers still prefer to receive their news by hardcopy and it's a need that will continue to be filled by Yuma Proving Ground's newspaper, the Outpost. With a large and diverse readership spread over 1300 square miles of land, many without computer access, YPG's commitment to the Outpost remains strong.

The communications world will continue to evolve and YPG's communications efforts will evolve with it. The proving ground is fully committed to its social media efforts, with new ones in the future, in a conscientious, pro-active manner that shares information and exciting photography with the over 2500 YPG employees, but also people in Southwest Arizona and around the globe.

## YPG SOCIAL MEDIA SITE ADDRESSES:

External Website: [www.yuma.army.mil](http://www.yuma.army.mil)

Facebook site: [www.facebook.com/USAYPG](http://www.facebook.com/USAYPG)

YouTube site: [www.youtube.com/yumaprovingground](http://www.youtube.com/yumaprovingground)

Twitter site: [www.twitter.com/ypg\\_az](http://www.twitter.com/ypg_az)

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# AIRFIELD

FROM PAGE 6

said Arnold. "We can't take any other high performance fighters: not because they can't take off, but because they need more runway to land."

Officials speculate that there are approximately 30 activities per month that the field is incapable of serving at present, which could be rectified by a 2,000 foot expansion of the airfield's longest runway.

"Not only will that allow C-17s to leave here fully loaded, but it will also allow us to fly large UAS out of here," said Arnold. "Unmanned systems are the future of aviation

testing at YPG."

Though unmanned aircraft and sensor testing are growing areas of workload, the LAAF crew are ready to accommodate additional helicopter testing, too. As a Major Range Test and Facility Base (MRTFB), helicopter testing can be performed at YPG relatively inexpensively, with only fuel and labor costs charged to the customer. The proving ground's 330 days of annual sunshine means testing is rarely cancelled due to weather, and occasional high winds aloft don't affect helicopter flights in the adverse way they would an airplane at altitude.

"We offer our customers very experienced pilots, capable aircraft, and good weather," said Arnold.

## Next Outpost deadline is noon August 8th

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# From the ATEC G-1 Director's Office

## Furlough Update

1. Employees received their paycheck on 25 July for the 30 June - 13 July timeframe. For the majority of ATEC employees, this paycheck reflected one furlough day. After this, the next 5 paychecks will reflect the loss of pay for 2 days (16 hours) per pay period. The chart below reflects the loss of BASE pay for a two week period. Employees will see larger decreases in salary due to locality payments, which vary depending on duty station. If you are not GS, you can find your approximate grade and step equivalent by comparing your BASE pay to the GS salary table.

					Step					
Grade	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
GS-01	-\$136.95	-\$141.52	-\$146.08	-\$150.61	-\$155.16	-\$157.84	-\$162.34	-\$166.88	-\$167.05	-\$171.30
GS-02	-\$153.98	-\$157.64	-\$162.73	-\$167.05	-\$168.93	-\$173.90	-\$178.87	-\$183.84	-\$188.81	-\$193.78
GS-03	-\$168.00	-\$173.60	-\$179.20	-\$184.80	-\$190.40	-\$196.00	-\$201.60	-\$207.20	-\$212.80	-\$218.40
GS-04	-\$188.60	-\$194.88	-\$201.17	-\$207.45	-\$213.74	-\$220.02	-\$226.31	-\$232.59	-\$238.88	-\$245.16
GS-05	-\$211.01	-\$218.04	-\$225.07	-\$232.10	-\$239.13	-\$246.16	-\$253.19	-\$260.22	-\$267.25	-\$274.28
GS-06	-\$235.21	-\$243.05	-\$250.88	-\$258.72	-\$266.56	-\$274.40	-\$282.24	-\$290.08	-\$297.92	-\$305.75
GS-07	-\$261.38	-\$270.09	-\$278.81	-\$287.52	-\$296.24	-\$304.95	-\$313.67	-\$322.38	-\$331.10	-\$339.82
GS-08	-\$289.47	-\$299.12	-\$308.76	-\$318.41	-\$328.05	-\$337.70	-\$347.35	-\$356.99	-\$366.64	-\$376.28
GS-09	-\$319.72	-\$330.37	-\$341.02	-\$351.68	-\$362.33	-\$372.98	-\$383.64	-\$394.29	-\$404.95	-\$415.60
GS-10	-\$352.8	-\$363.82	-\$375.56	-\$387.30	-\$399.04	-\$410.78	-\$422.52	-\$434.25	-\$445.99	-\$457.73
GS-11	-\$386.82	-\$399.72	-\$412.61	-\$425.50	-\$438.39	-\$451.28	-\$464.18	-\$477.07	-\$489.96	-\$502.85
GS-12	-\$463.65	-\$479.10	-\$494.55	-\$510.01	-\$525.46	-\$540.92	-\$556.37	-\$571.82	-\$587.28	-\$602.73
GS-13	-\$551.34	-\$569.72	-\$588.09	-\$606.47	-\$624.85	-\$643.22	-\$661.60	-\$679.98	-\$698.35	-\$716.73
GS-14	-\$651.2	-\$673.23	-\$694.95	-\$716.66	-\$738.38	-\$760.09	-\$781.81	-\$803.52	-\$825.24	-\$846.95
GS-15	-\$766.37	-\$791.92	-\$817.46	-\$843.01	-\$868.55	-\$894.10	-\$919.65	-\$945.19	-\$970.74	-\$996.28

2. It is always a good practice to review your Leave and Earnings Statements (LES). The pay period ending 13 July saw decreases in many items on your LES to include gross pay, taxable wages and net pay. You will also see changes in deductions to include retirement, state and Federal taxes, Medicare and TSP (if allotments are based on percentage of salary). Depending on benefit decisions you have made, you may see changes in tax deferred wages.

3. TSP elective contribution limits for 2013 is \$17,500. Employees who wish to reach this limit and who have deductions based on a percentage of salary may need to alter their allotment. You can change your TSP allotment at the following web site: Employee Benefits Information System (EBIS)

4. Furlough hours will be reflected under "LEAVE" on your LES as a separate line. Since furlough hours are non-paid hours, you will also see your furlough time reflected on the LWOP line under the column "USED YTD".

Judy Tredway

G-1, Human Resources Director

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