

## ATEC commander gets up close and personal view of YPG

By Chuck Wullenjohn

Army Test and Evaluation Command Commander Maj. Gen. Daniel Karbler spent two packed days at U.S. Army Yuma Proving Ground late last month visiting a wide variety of test sites and meeting dozens of employees. His first visit since assuming command last June, Karbler viewed key projects in each mission area, listened to detailed briefings, went on a helicopter overflight and rode an Abrams tank on the challenging Hilly Trails test course. A friendly and personable man, he asked lots of questions and made a point of personally thanking each briefer for his or her professionalism, commitment and hard work.

Before departing, Karbler took time to share some of his thoughts and insights regarding the world of military testing and the future.

*ATEC's mission is to test military equipment and munitions. How important is this work to the national defense?*

Army Chief of Staff Gen. Mark Milley, who assumed his position in August, has stated his three priorities. The first is for the Army to be ready today. The second is to prepare for the Army of the future and the last deals with taking care of Soldiers and families. What we do in the test world directly contributes toward the first and second of these priorities.

Last December, when we had a problem with 155mm howitzer tubes in the Army, people at YPG fired thousands of artillery rounds to make sure the tubes were safe to operate. This effort directly impacted the readiness of today's Army. The building within which I am sitting right now, Air Delivery, is where precision airdrop technology is tested. That work directly supports Soldiers in Afghanistan, as well as, prepares for the future.

Whether it's the Joint Lightweight Tactical Vehicle, future aviation platforms, or basically everything coming to the Army of the future, we're testing now to make sure



**A friendly and personable man, ATEC commander Maj. Gen. Daniel Karbler made a point of personally thanking each employee he encountered for his or her professionalism, commitment and hard work, even aboard a tank under test. (Photo credit Mark Schauer)**

those systems are, effective, suitable, survivable, and safe to operate. This is directly in line with the priorities of General Milley. We don't want to procure equipment that has not been

adequately tested that months or years down the road requires costly Band-Aid fixes.

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# ATEC

FROM PAGE 1

When you visit a test center, what types of things do you generally do and why are they valuable?

The first thing I like to do is meet with my ATEC teammates and thank them for what they do. I thank them for diligence in performing the test mission and thank them on behalf of the Army for ensuring that our Soldiers get only the best equipment. I like to visit test centers to get boots on the ground to see equipment being tested and talk with engineers and leadership to make sure testing is going right. I want to see what we at ATEC HQ can do to help.

What have you seen at YPG that made a particular impression? Why?

Having been a former customer of YPG, with Patriot missile units that came out for Weapons Tactical Instruction (WTI) exercises, I was previously unaware of the scope of capabilities here. Range and space capabilities, aviation assets, artillery assets and gun crews, air delivery, the amount of controlled air space, the joint aspect of what goes on -- incredible. The breadth and depth of Yuma Test Center and the proving ground as a whole is remarkable.

*YPG is the number one single*

*employer of civilians in Yuma County. What message would you like to impart to the public about the YPG mission?*

The continued support to our Soldiers and civilians at YPG by the Yuma community is very much appreciated. On my next visit, I hope to get into the community to experience that great hospitality with which I know Yuma graces the proving ground. YPG's Commander and Command Sgt. Maj. have shared with me how patriotic this community is. From the bottom of my heart, I want to thank everyone in Yuma County for their great support.

*If you could gather the entire YPG workforce in a single room, what would you say to them?*

This is a big room we have! I would sincerely thank them for their attention to detail that separates what we do in the test world from what is done in the operational world. We have to be exacting in our jobs, we have to be precise. I would also tell them to let me know when something is going off the rails or if they have a great idea for fixing something.

*In terms of the federal budget, this is a time of uncertainty. How will this impact the ATEC and YPG*



**Chief Warrant Officer Brian Perinon, chief of YPG's Airborne Test Force (left), leads Maj. Gen. Karbler on a tour of the parachute rigger's shop. "The breadth and depth of Yuma Test Center and the proving ground as a whole is remarkable," said Karbler. (Photo credit Chuck Wullenjohn)**

*future workload? Should individual employees be concerned?*

I wish I had a crystal ball. Given all the planning factors and given our assumptions for the budget that go out to FY19, frankly, I see little effect to individuals. The number of ATEC employees at Yuma Proving Ground is below the authorized level, which means the YPG workforce should be okay. I have advised commanders throughout ATEC to take a close look at hiring actions and to not hire to their authorized levels. Of course, physics gets a vote in this equation -- we always need to maintain our capabilities and the quality of our work.

Everyone in ATEC should keep themselves well informed about ongoing federal budget discussions. Individuals should vote and contact their congressional representatives if necessary. The Chief of Staff and the Secretary of Defense are both on record saying that sequestration is detrimental to the readiness of our forces. I certainly echo these sentiments. We feel it at ATEC, for we want to ensure we have the right amount of resources to fully test

whatever equipment comes from program managers. Our mission is to uphold our motto -- truth in testing.

*The YPG workforce, like the ATEC workforce as a whole, is mostly made up of civilians. Do you see the same level of commitment to the military from people who wear a uniform and those who don't?*

I see exactly the same level of commitment. Yesterday at YPG, I met a group of aspiring leaders for lunch. They were super smart engineers eager to do a good job. When I pointed out that they could be making more money on the outside, they talked of how unique their jobs are. When in school, they never thought they would be working with Abrams tanks, shooting artillery rounds or testing unmanned aircraft. These folks apply great engineering skills to serve their country and do a job that is unique and fascinating, as well as outside what their compadres are doing in other sectors of engineering. Yuma Proving Ground boasts an excellent, fully committed workforce.

## THE OUTPOST

The Outpost is an unofficial publication authorized under provisions of AR 360-1. The Outpost is published every two weeks by the Public Affairs Office, Yuma Proving Ground. Views and opinions expressed are not necessarily those of the Army. This newspaper uses material credited to ATEC and ARNEWS. While contributions are solicited, the PAO reserves the right to edit all submitted materials and make corrections, changes or deletions to conform with the policy of this newspaper.



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Phone: (928) 328-6143/6189 or DSN 899-6143.  
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# Notable Native Americans

Researched by Yolie Canales

**Editor's Note:** November is Native American Heritage Month, or as it is commonly referred to, American Indian and Alaska Native Heritage Month.

The month is a time to celebrate rich and diverse cultures, traditions, and histories and to acknowledge the important contributions of Native people. During this month it is also an opportune time to educate the general public about tribes, to raise a general awareness about the unique challenges Native people have faced both historically and in the present, and the ways in which tribal citizens have worked to conquer these challenges.

The following story is about the first woman to be elected as chief of the Cherokee nation and the struggles she endured when she and her family relocated to California from their native land of Oklahoma.

Wilma Mankiller became the first woman elected as the principal chief of the Cherokee nation. She was born in Tahlequah, Oklahoma, the sixth of eleven children. Her name Mankiller, derives from the high military rank achieved by a Cherokee ancestor. When she was 10 years old, her family relocated to San Francisco, Calif.

In California, Mankiller graduated

from high school, married and had two children. She studied sociology and went to work as a social worker. In 1969, she became active in the Native American Rights movement when the American Indian Movement (AIM) and other activists occupied Alcatraz. In 1974, after divorcing her husband, Mankiller and her two daughters, returned to her home in Tahlequah.

She started working for the Cherokee nation while attending college. During this time, she was severely injured in a car crash that took the life of her best friend. Then, in 1980, just a year after the accident, she was diagnosed with myasthenia gravis, a chronic neuromuscular disease that causes varying degrees of weakness in the voluntary muscles of the body. Despite all these challenges Mankiller managed to complete a master's degree in Community Planning at the University of Arkansas.

In 1983, she won election as deputy principal Cherokee chief and when the principal chief Ross Swimmer became head of the Bureau of Indian Affairs in 1985, Mankiller succeeded him as principal chief. She won in her own right, two years later. By 1992, she received 82 percent of the vote. Mankiller was recognized

for developing rural areas and providing services for Cherokee citizens. During her term in office, the Cherokee Nation grew from 55,000 to 156,000 tribal citizens. Through her work, she earned world-wide recognition for the Cherokee people.

Her administration focused on the high unemployment rate and low levels of education on the reservation, and improving community health care and developing the economy of northeastern Oklahoma. She spent much of her time writing grants for health and education programs, including the Cherokee Home Health Agency and Head Start. She also created the Institute for Cherokee Literacy.

"We are better people and a stronger tribal nation because of her example of Cherokee leadership, statesmanship, humility, grace, determination and decisiveness," Chad Smith, the Cherokees' principal chief, said in a statement on the tribe's Web site. "When we become disheartened, we will be inspired by remembering how Wilma proceeded undaunted through



**Wilma Mankiller, who was chief of the Cherokee Nation from 1985 to 1995, put much of her focus on education, health and housing. (Photo credit J. Pat Carter)**

so many trials and tribulations."

In 1995, Mankiller was diagnosed with lymphoma and chose not to run for reelection. She was inducted into the National Women's Hall of Fame in 1993 and in 1998 President Clinton awarded her the Presidential Medal of Freedom.

After leaving office, Mankiller remained an activist for Native-American and women's rights until her death, on April 6, 2010, in Adair County, Oklahoma.

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# December a big month for YPG community outreach events

By Teri Womack

As the holiday season approaches and we reflect on the past, it's clear that it's been a busy 12 months for YPG and our involvement with the Yuma community -- and it's not over yet! Here are some final events that will round out 2015.

On November 11, YPG Soldiers will be proudly waving from a Humvee as they travel through the streets of Yuma as part of the annual Yuma Veterans Day Parade. Col. Randy Murray, commander, and his wife, Deborah, will ride in a vintage convertible in the parade's vanguard. Cpt. Steven Smith, chaplain, will provide the invocation and benediction at a ceremony honoring the end of World War I after the parade at the American Legion Hall on Virginia Drive. A bit of advice -- be sure to arrive early to get a front row roadside seat and be sure to wave back!

If you happen to be in the area of the Yuma Heritage Library at 1 p.m. on November 14th or 18th, stop in, pull up a chair, and soak up some history. The following presentations will be given by our very own YPG

speakers: On November 13th, Chuck Wullenjohn, Public Affairs Officer, will present a slide show titled, "Army's busiest test center increases military value each year."

The next day, November 14th, Bill Heidner, Heritage Center Director, will show off his knowledge with a presentation entitled, "Poston War Relocation Center - the Japanese-American internment camp in our backyard"

And you certainly don't want to miss the presentation given by Mark Schauer, Public Affairs Specialist, on November 18th titled "UFO? Cold War frost in the Yuma desert."

December kicks off with the City of Yuma Military Appreciation Day (MAD) on Saturday, December 5th, in downtown Yuma from 8 a.m. until 5 p.m. and you don't want to miss this day chock full of events, presentations, exhibits, and a scavenger hunt with local merchants.

On the 9th of December, start the first of five YPG "Behind the Big Guns" public tours, sponsored with the Yuma Visitors Bureau. After the tour, it is topped off with a great lunch at the Cactus Café, tour

participants walk it off with a visit to the Heritage Center Museum.

This year, we have added a mini-version of the big guns tour on Dec. 16th, called the YPG "At Ease" tour, of which there will be three. People love to see what we do out here at YPG on a daily basis!

The grand finale of 2015 will be two holiday concerts of live music. The 62nd Army Band returns to

Yuma on the 16th of December and will present two shows at the Yuma Historic Theatre. Tickets will go fast for both the 2 p.m. and the 7 p.m. shows! If you don't have the Christmas spirit when entering the theater to attend one of the concerts, you're almost guaranteed to have it when departing. This is a great way to relax and enjoy this special time of year.



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29 October 2015

MEMORANDUM FOR ALL YPG PERSONNEL

SUBJECT: Veteran's Day Holiday Safety Message

1. Veterans Day is a well-deserved holiday to honor those who served with the U.S. Armed Forces. This day provides us a great opportunity to give thanks for our freedom, and to honor those who served and have defended our great nation. As we remember our Veterans, also remember those who are currently fighting and securing our future, today. Many Soldiers are entering into harm's way to preserve freedoms that we sometimes take for granted.
2. Many of us will take the opportunity to use leave and enjoy some extended time off, and this will intensify the potential for accidents and injuries to our Soldiers, Civilians, Contractors, and their Family. The greatest off-duty risk continues to be driving accidents. To prevent accidents, we must follow the basic rules: never drink and drive; don't speed; don't drive when drowsy; don't text and drive; and always keep your attention on your driving and changes in weather conditions. In addition, always wear your seatbelt. It only takes one slip up, one momentary lapse of judgment to result in a serious accident. Drive like your life depends upon it, because it does.
3. Another danger at this time of year is hunting accidents. Most of these accidents can be prevented by using good judgment, wearing brightly colored clothing, always treating your weapon as though it were loaded, and never mixing alcohol with hunting or firearms. Hunting is meant to be a fun and challenging sport. Let's not allow it to become a sad and tragic event!
4. I challenge you to honor our Veterans with responsible and safe behavior. Our personnel are valuable assets, both on duty and off. Let's celebrate this holiday by bringing everyone safely back to Yuma Proving Ground. Enjoy the Veterans Day holiday and thanks for all you do every day, and please always remember that at YPG: "NOBODY GETS HURT."

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## — CHIEF'S CORNER... —

### Privately owned weapons registration

Submitted by Dennis Brown, Chief of Police

It is late summer in the state of Arizona and for Yuma Proving Ground that usually means a large turn over in personnel and also, the beginning of hunting season in the region. Personnel living on the installation and those wishing to hunt on USAYPG lands must register their firearms in accordance with USAYPG Regulation 190-11 & USAYPG Regulation 210-11 respectively, which are located on the USAYPG Sharepoint Homepage.

Residents or hunters needing to register a firearm should stop by the YPG Visitor Control Center, bldg. 2020, with a list of weapons to register, (do not physically bring the firearm). A registration sheet will be provided that requires information to include but not less than: registered

owner's name, address, contact number, firearm type, caliber, serial number, make, model, and finish.

Personnel are reminded that the carry of firearms by other than law enforcement or security personnel on USAYPG lands, other than for those areas designated for hunting, is prohibited under federal law and military regulation. State concealed or open carry statutes do not apply on federal property. Persons found in violation could incur local administrative action, fines & penalties, or imprisonment.

It is recommended prior to transporting, carrying or storing a firearm on USAYPG or any federal installation that local polices are reviewed and understood. Do your part to keep yourself and others in regulatory compliance.

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# Sheep, camels, other livestock help train military working dogs

By Chuck Wullenjohn

The grunt of camels, bleating of sheep and cackle of chickens has returned to Yuma Proving Ground, as if the bygone days of homesteaders and the U.S. Army Camel Corps have returned ... but only for two days each month.

That's when Ben Standley of Yuma's Camel Farm delivers a variety of barnyard animals, including two 1200 lb. camels, to YPG's K-9 Village to take part in realistic training for military working dogs and their handlers.

Hundreds of military working dogs come through YPG each year to train amid lifelike village areas typical of Southwest Asia. The livestock is brought in to provide an extra dose

of realism, for as the trained dogs' use their noses to search for specific scents or odors, the sight, sound and smell of barnyard creatures can throw them off.

"Having the animals here is all about creating natural distractions," explained Standley. "Military working dogs have to be able to discriminate between scents around them and not be distracted by the noise of animals."

Military Working Dog Course Chief Staff Sgt. Alfred Nieto says this is critically important, for the intention of the YPG training is to integrate the canine teams into active forces. "Overseas, our forces tend to operate in rural areas where barnyard animals are common," he explained. "On my tours overseas,



**The 1200 lb. camels are docile creatures and rarely stomp or bare their teeth at the dogs when they are in training. (Loaned photos)**

animals seem to be everywhere, even inside houses. Sometimes flocks of sheep stop traffic when a herder leads his flock across a road. Exposing military working dogs to these distractions at home helps limit problems later."

Standley has been coming out to YPG for nearly three years, arriving around 6 a.m. He distributes the animals in secure cages throughout K-9 Village, with ample supplies of water, hay and food. Though the roster of animals varies a bit over the course of each year, sometimes including horses or cows, always making the trip are goats, sheep, donkeys, chickens, camels, and a goose.

"The 1200 lb. camels are docile creatures and rarely stomp or bare their teeth at the dogs," said Standley. "The goose, however, can be mean. She's aggressive and enjoys showing her dominance." The goose stands up straight and tall when seeing a dog approach, raising up as much as possible in order to appear large. Sometimes it honks harshly and flaps its wings.

"I have observed a variety of reactions from the dogs," said Nieto. "Some are curious, some are scared, and others don't know what to make of it. Many don't show any reaction

at all."

Most people feel the most unique animals among the menagerie visiting K-9 Village are the camels.

Having lived and thrived in desert areas of the world for thousands of years, the most recognizable physical characteristic of camels are the humps on their backs. The humps are made of fatty tissue that get converted into energy and water whenever the need arises. Capable of going five to seven consecutive days without water, camels are equipped with an inner eyelid that protects their eyes during sandstorms. Though they prefer meals of grass and grain, they can make a feast out of almost anything, including thorns, desert brush and bones – even canvas tents.

The interaction between barnyard animals and military working dogs at YPG is strictly controlled to prevent physical contact.

"We have over 300 animals at the farm and they all like coming out here," said Standley. "All are desert animals and they do just fine in the heat."

He likes to vary the animals selected each day, frequently mixing the participants. "The ones that don't get selected run around throwing a fit," he said with a wide smile.



**Though the roster of animals varies a bit over the course of each year, sometimes including horses or cows, always making the trip are goats, sheep, donkeys, chickens, camels, and a goose.**

# Counter-unmanned aircraft systems prove their worth at YPG

By Mark Schauer

Unmanned aerial systems (UAS) are the latest wonder of the aviation world.

The United States military has used them for decades, and increasingly unmanned systems to perform dangerous reconnaissance and attack missions that save Soldiers' lives.

As the technology proliferates, however, America's adversaries could potentially use UAS to target this nation's troops, necessitating a robust counter-UAS defense system for use anywhere American forces may be deployed.

U.S. Army Yuma Proving Ground recently proved its mettle in this important and growing test mission area by hosting a large scale exercise in conjunction with the U.S. Army Rapid Equipping Force (REF) that put counter-UAS systems under development through a series of rigorous scenarios.

"We had a total of nine counter-UAS systems that came out to YPG to do performance characterization and assess their abilities to detect, identify, and neutralize UAS systems," said Peter Schaffer, electronic warfare branch team lead. "Customers are interested in rapidly fielding a counter-UAS capability."

YPG's clear, stable air and extremely dry climate along with vast institutional UAS testing knowledge makes it an attractive location to host this kind of work. Of at least equal importance to the counter-UAS mission, however, is the proving ground's robust sensor-testing workload and ability to control a large swath of the radio

frequency (RF) spectrum. YPG has more than 500 permanent radio frequencies, and several thousand temporary ones in a given month.

"Our ability to get RF clearances, fly UAS, and do sensor work is unique," said Schaffer. "We are a one-stop shop for this type of testing."

"The frequency authorizations alone are very difficult to do," added Grant Ware, director of the Air Combat Directorate. "The ability to jam that we have here is very difficult to get in other places."

Even more impressive was the fact that the complex test was planned and executed in about one month.

"When we came to YPG with the idea, we knew their team would do an excellent job helping us with this event, even with such a short timeline" said Lt. Col. Keith Matiskella, Solution Team Chief at the REF. "We wanted to do a unique test, and the YPG team rose to the challenge."

In addition to identifying sites suitable for the test's unique needs, YPG personnel obtained safety approvals for every piece of equipment brought to bear in the course of the evaluation, from the UAS themselves to ancillary components like radar trackers.

"We wanted to ensure we did everything possible to carry out the test safely," said Schaffer. "This was put together rapidly, but we don't take shortcuts with safety."

"The safety office is blessed by the attitude that every single one of our test officers have: they take safety to heart," added Mary Svoboda, health physicist. "Their main goal is to run a safe, successful test. We

have to pull in many subject matter experts to conduct a test this complex, and we are fortunate at YPG to have a large number of them."

Realism in the scenarios was paramount: the test teams flying the UAS launched them from multiple points across YPG's vast test range, actively choosing spots that a real adversary might seek on a battlefield.

"This is a blind test," said Schaffer. "The systems don't know from where the UAS are going to be launched, and, once launched, they have to detect and track it. We score them on how long it takes each system to find each UAS and how accurate the tracking was."

A variety of UAS were used over the course of days, both fixed wing and rotor wing, against the systems under test. Some systems were capable of detecting and neutralizing targets, while others merely tracked them. In all, about 150 personnel supported the test, and all of this activity was accomplished without interfering with YPG's busy test mission in the more than 2,000 square miles of restricted airspace above the proving ground, a feat that required careful coordination with



**U.S. Army Yuma Proving Ground recently proved its mettle in the important and growing counter-unmanned aircraft system test mission area by hosting a large scale exercise that put systems under development through a series of rigorous scenarios. In all, about 150 personnel supported the test. (Photo by Mark Schauer)**

other test missions. Well over 100 sorties were flown for this test, with the mock adversary forces changing position as necessary to make way for unrelated missions that required air space they had been using.

The test was a success, and YPG officials expect to see this vital mission increase going forward.

"I think it's awesome that the aviation, electronic warfare, and sensor branches all worked together to make this happen," said Schaffer.

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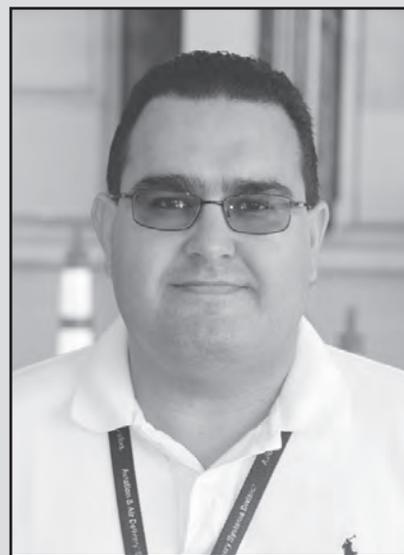
Our nation's 239 years of freedom did not come without a price. We asked members of the workforce to reflect on what Veterans Day means to them.

By Mark Schauer



**Juan Cuevas, branch chief:**

I am grateful for our veterans and the hard efforts they made at all hours to protect our freedom. That's why I have great pride in what I do with the people at YTC making sure our Soldiers can do their job. My heart goes out to all the veterans: I have one cousin currently in the military, and one who is a veteran. My brother-in-law is also a veteran.



**Walter Lopez, test officer:**

It is a day to honor those people who have fought for our freedom and ensured our country is safe. Having a cousin in the Marines who has done two tours really makes it hit home. I've seen many people like him, and it is a day to reflect on and thank those who have served, those who made it back with us and those who didn't.



**Ed Millis, data acquisition:**

I think Veterans Day should be a time to reflect on the freedom America enjoys today, honor the men and women who sacrificed for that freedom, and ponder our contributions to keeping that honor vibrant and alive. Without our veterans, we could not have the America we live in today.

# The History of Veterans Day

November 11, or what has come to be known as Veterans Day, was originally set as a U.S. legal holiday to honor Armistice Day - the end of World War I, which officially took place on November 11, 1918. President Woodrow Wilson honored the first commemoration of Armistice Day with the following words: "To us in America, the reflections of Armistice Day will be filled with solemn pride in the heroism of those who died in the country's service and with gratitude for the victory, both because of the thing from which it has freed us and because of the opportunity it has given America to show her sympathy with peace and justice in the councils of the nations..."

In 1954, Congress, at the urging of the veterans service organizations, struck out the word "Armistice" and inserted the word "Veterans." With the approval of this legislation on

June 1, 1954, November 11 became a day to honor American veterans of all wars.

Between 1968 and 1975, Veterans Day was moved around on the calendar, sometimes even appearing on the last Monday of October. Finally on September 20, 1975, President Gerald R. Ford signed a law which returned the annual observance of Veterans Day to its original date of November 11, beginning in 1978.

Veterans Day continues to be observed on November 11, regardless of what day of the week on which it falls. The restoration of the observance of Veterans Day to November 11 not only preserves the historical significance of the date, but helps focus attention on the important purpose of Veterans Day: A celebration to honor America's veterans for their patriotism, love of country, and willingness to serve and sacrifice for the common good.

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