

THE OUTPOST

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Vertical wind tunnel dedicated

By Mark Schauer

It was 15 years in the making, so long that the man it is now named for, Master Sgt. George Bannar, once told his wife Michelle he thought it would never happen.

First assigned to the Military Freefall School in August 2008, Bannar was the non-commissioned officer in charge from 2009 to 2012, serving as an instructor to the school's basic and advanced courses. He taught special forces candidates and future freefall instructors how to maneuver in the air with precision, and was frustrated that students had to go to Fort Bragg in the middle of the course to gain critical training time within that installation's wind tunnel prior to going on actual jumps at YPG's drop zones.

As he deployed for his fifth overseas tour in 2012, he began to keep a journal, and frequently mentioned Yuma.

"This was the best military family he had," said Michelle Bannar. "In Yuma he had

the best time of his life and career. This is where his heart is."

Though he lost his life in Wardak Province, Afghanistan, last August, the legacy of a man described by Col. Miguel Correa, commander of the 1st Special Warfare Training Group, as, "the epitome of a Special Forces NCO," his memory lives on in students past and future.

The wind tunnel that now bears his name is the largest of its kind in the world, with a 16.5 foot flight chamber able to accommodate eight jumpers simultaneously with a top speed of 175 miles per hour. Its presence at YPG means freefall students no longer have to return to Fort Bragg during the course to get critical practice time.

"It represents the nexus between fiscal responsibility, decisive response to a changing world, and the belief that if you put a good man between you and the problem and properly

SEE **TUNNEL** page 6



PHOTO BY YOLIE CANALES

Michelle Bannar, widow of the late Military Freefall School instructor Master Sgt. George Bannar, touches the granite stone honoring her husband's memory as Master Sgt. Bannar's mother, Sheila Long, looks on emotionally. Bannar said her husband began keeping a journal during his last deployment to Afghanistan, and mentioned Yuma frequently. "This was the best military family he had. In Yuma he had the best time of his life and career. His heart is here."

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More photos from the wind tunnel dedication/Page 6



Scientific careers highlighted to area students

By Yolie Canales

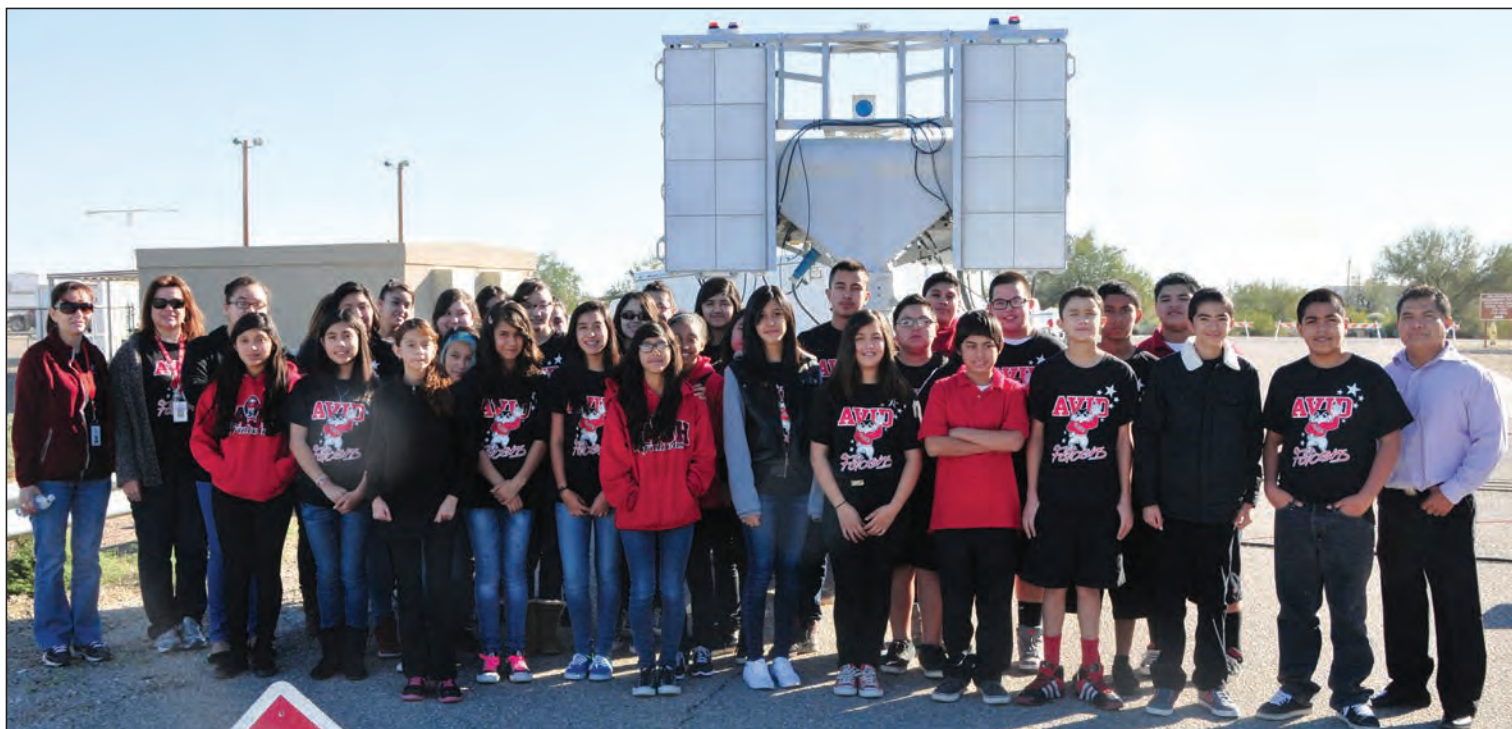
It's never too early to open the eyes and minds of young people about the types of careers available once they graduate from high school and college.

In late January, 80 students from Yuma's 4th Ave Jr. High School were given the unique opportunity of touring several Yuma Proving Ground facilities. Kerry Morse, career coordinator at the school, said many of the students don't know much about what goes on outside their realm which, for many, are their homes and neighborhoods.

"Some students have never heard of YPG or, for that matter, where it's located or what types of jobs are out here," said Morse. "Tours such as these bring awareness and offer them the opportunity to spread their horizons as they see the type of work they can do once completing their education."

To start off the tour, the students toured the Electronics Division where they learned about the division's mission in supporting the testing world at YPG. They also had the opportunity to learn how math and science play important roles in the electronics field. In addition, they were provided with a demonstration on the sophisticated radar tracking systems and other equipment used by radar specialist/technicians.

They then traveled to



LOANED PHOTOS

4th Ave. Jr. High School Principal Jose Casares (right) poses for a group photo with the students outside the Electronics Division.

the Air Delivery Complex where they learned about the mission of the Airborne Test Force. Here, numerous students asked questions regarding the height at which parachutists release their parachutes, the type of training that goes into working in this field, and much more. They toured the facility where they saw how parachutes are repaired and viewed different sizes of parachutes used at YPG.

One student commented that when he travels on Highway 95 with his parents, he has noticed a great tall building but had no idea what it contained. "Now I know," he said.

The students were also taken to the General Motors (GM) complex where they were given a "windshield"



Justin Keesey from the radar section, demonstrates the power of a tracking radar by tracking a .177 caliber BB.

tour of the numerous test courses used to test GM vehicles. Morse said, "The students learned a great deal from the GM visit and now have knowledge of what GM does at their courses and what the proving ground is all about. Additionally, they had the privilege of touring the museum which, for some, was the first time they had ever been to a museum at all."

"This tour was the best our school has participated in," said school principal Jose Casares. "I'm so glad I was asked to serve as a chaperone. Hands-down, this has been the most awesome, educational and impressive tour I have ever been involved with. This was an excellent opportunity for all of us."

Procuring items locally gets boost from event

By Yolie Canales

Approximately 70 small business owners from the Yuma area, prime contractors, numerous federal organizations, and contracting agencies participated in a recent “Local Buy Event,” a first-time event for the Yuma area.

The event was a partnership effort between numerous organizations with the goal of facilitating business-to-business contacts to support the procurement of local goods, particularly from small, minority and businesses operated by veterans.

“Participants joined in a ‘one-on-one’ interaction with others during the matchmaking session to

further discuss their organizations’ resources,” said Georgette Dilworth, Small Business Specialist from the Mission and Installation Contracting Command at Yuma Proving Ground. “Over the past year, the sensitivity to

the importance of buying products has been greatly raised. A dollar spent at a local business circulates five to seven times and those local dollars create additional jobs and tax revenues.”

— Georgette Dilworth

said it is fortunate to have great community partners and businesses that are committed to fostering development of the local business community. “This has been a great step in developing mutually beneficial relationships,” she said.

“A dollar spent at a local business circulates five to seven times and those local dollars create additional jobs and tax revenues.”



LOANED PHOTO

Left to right are James Pipper, Georgette Dilworth, Daniel Ayala and Randy Nelson.

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THE OUTPOST

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Unforgotten WWI veteran's remains laid to rest

By Yolie Canales

Sixty-five members of the Yuma Patriot Guard Riders recently rode their motorcycles in unison along Highway 95 to escort the remains of Pvt. Paul Meeh, a World War II-era U.S. Army cavalry veteran, to his final resting place beneath a tree near the Yuma Proving Ground horse stables.

The decision of where his ashes would be laid to rest came from a conversation Meeh had with his nurse Korey Kaderli and nurse assistant, Jessica Lisk at the Life Care Center, where he spent his last years. "Paul was 96 years of age and one of many patients to whom we provide care," said Kaderli. "When I checked on Paul in his room each morning, he would ask, 'have you fed and watered my horse today?'



PHOTO BY YOLIE CANALES

I always answered him with a 'Yes, I have.' This never ceased to put a smile on his face. He was a very special man to me."

Kaderli explained that she took care of him as one of her own, as she knew Meeh lived far away from his family. She well understood how much he loved horses and his own horse, in particular, for whom he once took a bullet. Because of this, she knew YPG's stable would be a great place to spread his ashes. Mark Hanley, Chief of YPG's Engineering, Plans and Services Division and organizer of the memorial service, heartily agreed.

Officiating the service was YPG's Chaplain (Maj.) Douglas Thomison. "This is quite an honor," he said. "What a blessing for this man who sacrificed so much for the freedom of our country to be farewelled by so many caring and loving people."

In addition to Chaplain's prayers and blessings, two members of the Golden Eagles musicians Jim and Mickey Kindle played "Amazing Grace" using a harmonica and a special saxophone while vocalist Debbie Dixon played the guitar and sang "Where have all the flowers gone," emphasizing on the following verse:

Where have all the Soldiers gone,
long time passing?
Where have all the Soldiers gone,
long time ago?

Where have all the Soldiers gone?
Gone to (to meet their creator).
Oh, when will they ever learn?
Oh, when will they ever learn?

At the closing of the service, a bugle sounded "Taps" in the background as everyone present stood at attention in salute to an unforgotten veteran and hero.

Hanley said this was a great honor and tribute to an old cavalryman. "I thought resting his remains near

A bugle sounds "Taps" as U.S. flags wave in the background and a final salute by Chaplain Douglas Thomison is rendered to Pvt. Paul Meeh, a World War II-era U.S. Army cavalry veteran. Korey Kaderli and Jessica Lisk hold Meeh's ashes before spreading them at the YPG Horse Stables.



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VETERAN

FROM PAGE 4

the horses he loved so much was a perfect fit," he explained. "I strongly believe that no veteran should pass without being honored and remembered, which is what we did here. No family came forth, so we obtained the necessary permissions on our own."

Hanley believes the Yuma Patriot Guard Riders are more than just a run-of-the-mill motorcycle club. A

member himself, he says, "We're a group of folks who want to pay respect to our country's heroes. Most members are veterans, but you don't have to be a veteran or ride a motorcycle to belong. You just have to be willing to show respect."

The riders are part of a national organization made up of people who come together to honor veterans. The organization began in 2005 to block protestors at military funerals in non-violent and at the request of the families.

Notice of Service Member Death

Sgt. 1st Class Jason B. Granger US ARMY, Yuma Proving Ground, AZ died on 27 December 2013.

Persons having property of the deceased or persons to whom the deceased is indebted or who are indebted to the deceased should contact Capt. Brandon Schmidt by phone at 928-920-0782 or by email at BRANDON.S.SCHMIDT.MIL@MAIL.MIL

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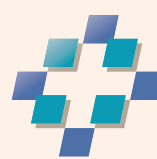
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TUNNEL

FROM PAGE 1

resource him, he will always succeed,” said Lt. Gen. Charles Cleveland, U.S. Army Special Operation Command commander. “I can think of no finer memorial to a warrior like George than one that impacts every special forces operator who will come after him.”

The dedication ceremony capped a morning of events that included a personnel and cargo parachute demonstration at a YPG drop zone and briefings at the terminal freefall where students depart from to jump from the aircraft. The scores in attendance at both sites were also treated to static displays of personnel parachutes on mannequins and cargo bundles rigged for air drop. Following the dedication, a large crowd gathered within the wind tunnel to observe Michelle Banner take the ceremonial first flight inside.

“I’m just lucky to be here and be part of this family,” she said afterward. “It is the best family you can have.”

EXCLUSIVE COMPANY

In the six decades of military freefall, fewer than 800 individuals have qualified as instructors, and this select group has trained more than 21,000 freefall parachutists. To qualify for this instruction, a prospective student needs to have completed a minimum of five static line jumps in his or her career, though most students have many more than this. Regardless, the increased complexity of freefall parachuting usually renders such experiences irrelevant to a student’s



PHOTOS BY MARK SCHAUER

Top: Sheila Long, mother of Master Sgt. Bannar, receives a commemorative plaque in her son’s honor from Lt. General Charles Cleveland.

Above: The audience renders honors to the American flag being jumped into the ceremony as the national anthem plays.

Left: Military Freefall School instructor Jose Reyes jumps the American flag into the ceremony as hundreds watch below.



PHOTO BY MARK SCHAUER

The ceremonial first ride in the newly-dedicated tunnel went to Michelle Bannar. "He was a very unique and incredible person," she said of her late husband afterwards. "He reminded me every day to live life and not be too serious. He was the love of my life."

ultimate success.

"This is the hardest school to get to, but the easiest school to pass," said Sgt. 1st Class Kevin McDaniel, freefall instructor. "Basically, students need to show that they can control their body and be safe in the air. The only time-sensitive task in this class is pulling at the right altitude, because eventually the ground is coming up."

McDaniel says most students successfully complete the intensive three-week course that begins with classes that teach how to pack a parachute and maneuver in freefall. Next is a week putting the classroom lessons in practice inside a vertical wind tunnel, followed by real jumps from altitude with an instructor an arms-length



PHOTO BY MARK SCHAUER

Lt. General Charles Cleveland, commander, U.S. Army Special Operations Command, served as the event's guest speaker. He described the new wind tunnel and other upgrades to freefall school equipment as, "critical steps in our way ahead for Army special operations, and the men who will make it happen are George's apprentices."



PHOTO BY MARK SCHAUER

Col. Miguel Correa, commander of the 1st Special Warfare Training Group, addresses the audience at the dedication. He praised the remarkably expedited process to name the facility in honor of Master Sgt. George Bannar, which took a mere six weeks.

away. Though the first of the real jumps aren't graded, instructors have a good sense of whether or not a student is poised for success, and the presence of the vertical wind tunnel in Yuma is a boon to future students who need additional practice.

"Before, you would have to go all the way back to Fort Bragg to try to fix a jumper to help him graduate the course," said McDaniel. "Now if a student has a problem, you can take him to the wind tunnel right after his jump, help him work on it, and get him back up there again to help him pass graded exercises."

"It's a controlled environment," added Charles Sims, freefall instructor. "One minute in the wind tunnel equals one jump."

A student who successfully completes the solo freefalls then moves on to group jumps with two instructors assisting upwards of eight students. The ultimate test involves night jumps that simulate the covert insertion special forces perform overseas. If the student succeeds at all of this, they

graduate the course.

FIRST OF ITS KIND

"This is the first time the government has contracted a vertical wind tunnel," said Ernesto Elias of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. "The construction process was typical, the product was not."

The nearly 100-foot-tall structure contains over 4,000 tons of concrete and 80 tons of steel. The building was completed in about a year, six months ahead of schedule, and 95 percent of the labor to build the \$10.3 million structure came from within Yuma. Even on the hottest desert days, the wind tunnel's chamber can be cooled down to 75 degrees.

The opening of the wind tunnel is the first in a series of upgrades to the Freefall School that will ultimately see the number of students increase by more than 50 percent. Next year, the Casa-212 aircraft that currently ferries students and jumpers for their jumps will be replaced by C27Js, a larger and faster aircraft that more closely resembles the type of planes Special Forces operators use in theater.



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Arizona Legislative aide visits YPG



PHOTO BY MARK SCHAUER

YPG commander Col. Reed Young (left) speaks to Michael Mansour (center), legislative aide, and (right) Sean Johnson, veteran liaison for U.S. Rep. Paul Gosar, during a recent visit to the proving ground. The legislative staffers also visited the proving ground's Airborne Test Force and Laguna Army Airfield during their afternoon visit.

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The Outpost is published every other week. The next issue will be out Feb. 17.

VIEWPOINTS

They may not have been fancy, but everyone remembers their first car. We asked members of the workforce to reminisce about the first car they ever owned.



Tom Cook

Test vehicle operations licensing coordinator

A 1977 Oldsmobile Omega. It was a four-door broughm with power windows and brakes, and a vinyl roof. It was an old grandma car and I was embarrassed by it at first, but the more I drove it and worked on it, the car turned out to be a lot of fun. I lowered it a couple of inches and put nice wheels and tires on it, and it was really neat. I loved that car, but I sold it for \$500 when I was 19. It was the fastest car around—my kids will never have a car that fast.

Larry Buthmann
Contracting

It was a deep red 1966 Ford Galaxie 500 XL. I think the XL must have stood for extra large, because it was a huge car. I bought it used at Fort Hood in 1975 when I was in uniform and took it over to Belgium with me. It was an oil burner, and I lived on the same street as the commander—he didn't like getting behind me on the way to work.



Nick McColl
Meteorology chief

It was a 1988 Toyota pick-up that my dad gave to me. It was a good vehicle that had its quirks, so it needed repairs and modifications once in a while. One time when I was in college in Vermont it had trouble staying running and I thought the carburetor was the cause. My roommate, Gabe, invited me down to his parents' house in Florida for spring break, so I took the carburetor off of the truck, put it in a box, hauled it down to Florida, and rebuilt it in their driveway. It ended up not being the problem. I have a 1993 Toyota pickup with 480,000 miles on it now.



Valley Fever germs uprooted by recent dust storms

By Jill Labossiere, YRMC

Yuma Regional Medical Center Infection Prevention Nurse Jill Labossiere explains in this write-up that "valley fever is a fungus found naturally here and it's in our soil."

Wind gusts as strong as 50 miles per hour recently stirred up huge dust clouds. Underneath it all, a harmful germ has been uprooted.

Labossiere says, "when soil becomes disturbed, through nature, like dust storms, the fungus clings to the soil. The soil becomes airborne and we share that air as we breath, therefore, we get the fungus in our bodies."

According to Labossiere, a number of cases are found locally. Fifty thousand people in the United States develop the disease. Two-third's of those people are in Arizona, specifically, in nearby counties including Maricopa, Pinal and Pima County.

However, Labossiere says most people's immune systems will fight the fungus,"healthy people like you and I can breathe the fungus germ. We may have no symptoms. We may never have symptoms. We may never ever know we have the germ. But if you have a chronic health condition, than you're at a lot higher risk and you really need to watch for symptoms."

Valley Fever symptoms are much like flu symptoms. They usually are noticed about a week after exposure or even up to a month. Labossiere says one key difference is, many Valley Fever patients begin to develop skin rashes.

She says exposure is higher with dust storms. "If you were out in the dust storm or any dust storm in Arizona and develop symptoms or a weird rash or flu like symptoms, call your doctor and just double check to be sure you don't have it."

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Chaplain's Corner

Being Content

By Chaplain (Maj.)
Douglas Thomison

Hello YPG. In the last couple editions of The Outpost we have examined our entrance into year 2014. As noted, I truly believe we should strive for self improvement. At the same time we shouldn't be overzealous in our wants or for quick results. In other words, what is your balance between accomplishing goals (needed) and being currently satisfied?

Consider the following story. A little boy went to see his favorite aunt. When he arrived, his aunt asked him what he wanted to do. He answered, "I love your pancakes, and when we have pancakes at home, I only get to eat three. While I'm

here at your house, I get to eat as many pancakes as I want."

The next morning, the boy's aunt began to pile pancakes on his plate. The little guy just kept eating and eating the pancakes as fast as he could. By the time he had eaten his tenth pancake, his pace had slowed down considerably. In the middle of eating his eleventh pancake, the boy came to an abrupt stop. His aunt asked, "Are you ready for some more pancakes?" With a pained expression on his face, the boy looked up at his aunt and said, "Oh no, I don't want any more. In fact, I don't even want the pancakes I've already eaten."

Life is truly a balancing act between striving for the things that bring fulfillment

and being satisfied with our "three pancakes." Ponder what the Apostle Paul says, "I know what it is to be in need, and I know what it is to have plenty. I have learned the secret of being content in any and every situation, whether well fed or hungry, whether living in plenty or in want." (Philippians 4:12) The Apostle Paul's secret to contentment in life is not about having ample food to eat (pancakes). Rather it is concerning something deeper. It is about being at peace with self and at peace in and through God.

As 2014 continues to unfold, may you find the "secret" (be at peace) of being content. Thanks for all you do for our community and nation YPG. Have a blessed day.

What is ADHD?

By Paul J. Kilanski, Exceptional
Family Member Program Manager

Many parents and educational professionals confuse Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD) and Learning Disabilities (LD). ADHD is not a form of LD. Each is a distinctive neurologically-based disorder. Each is recognized and treated differently. The treatment for ADHD will not correct a LD. The treatment for LD will not help ADHD. Of importance is that about 30 to 40 percent of individuals with LD will also have ADHD. Thus, if you find one problem it is important to look for the other.

Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder is a neurologically-based disorder caused by a deficiency of a specific neurotransmitter in a specific set of brain circuits. Depending on which areas of these circuits are involved, the individual might be hyperactive, distractible or impulsive. Hyperactivity might involve up and down, fidgety, squirmy, wiggly behavior or might show only as fidgety hand movements. The distractibility might be to sound inputs, visual inputs, and/or to internal thoughts. Impulsivity might involve speaking before thinking, thus interrupting or calling out or might involve acting before thinking.

There are many reasons for these three behaviors, including anxiety or depression. Thus the diagnosis is not easy. There are no formal tests. The pattern of clinical history is used. If the hyperactivity, distractibility, and/or impulsivity started at a certain time or occurs only in specific settings, the probable cause is anxiety or depression. ADHD is present at birth. Thus the history

will be chronic and pervasive.

These behaviors will have been present since early life. The treatment involves raising the level of the deficient neurotransmitter. There are several medications that will accomplish this. One group works by increasing the production of the transmitter. The second group works by decreasing the breakdown of this transmitter; thus, whatever is produced stays around longer.

Learning disabilities are caused by "faulty wiring" in the cortex of the brain. The result is difficulty processing information. These processing problems might involve language, motor, cognitive, or executive functioning problems. The result will be problems with language, motor activity, reading, writing, math, organization, or higher level tasks. Which disabilities an individual has will depend on the areas involved. When they will appear will depend on when the area of the brain that is wired differently begins to function.

Treatment of learning disabilities involves rehabilitation efforts. We can not get rid of the faulty wiring; we have to help the individual learn how to learn with the disabilities. These interventions include remedial interventions, teaching compensatory strategies, and accommodations. Thus, ADHD makes the individual less available for learning because of the activity level, inattention, and/or impulsivity. LD makes the individual unable to learn in the normal way, requiring intervention strategies to learn how to learn. Medication will not help minimize the impact of LD. Special education services will not help minimize the impact of ADHD. Each requires proper recognition and specific treatments.

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