

THE OUTPOST

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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

Massive explosion on Kofa Range

By Mark Schauer

Land mines are widely considered the cruelest and most indiscriminate of weapons, and have been banned by most of the world's nations. Yet America's adversaries continue to use these weapons and their cousin, the improvised explosive device (IED), in an attempt to slow American forces.

In such cases, the speediest way to successfully overcome these munitions is with a spectacular offense, and few weapons used by combat infantrymen deliver more bang than the Mine Clearing Line Charge (MICLIC).

"It was originally designed to clear mine fields, but now its use is a little bit broader in that it has been used against general hazards in both Iraq and Afghanistan," said Tim Healy, branch chief for demolitions for Project Manager Close Combat Systems. "We used it extensively against IEDs and in suspected areas of IEDs."

The MICLIC resembles a series of giant sausage links with each "link" in the 350 foot-long chain being a block of powerful C-4 explosive. The cable that holds the charges together is attached to

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(PHOTOS BY MARK SCHAUER)

The Mine Clearing Line Charge (MICLIC) is used by American forces who need to clear mine and improvised explosive device-contaminated areas as rapidly as possible. YPG conducts lot acceptance tests on samples of the munition. Here, YPG personnel prepare a MICLIC charge for a test fire.

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save lives
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Quick-thinking TRAX employees save lives

By Yolie Canales

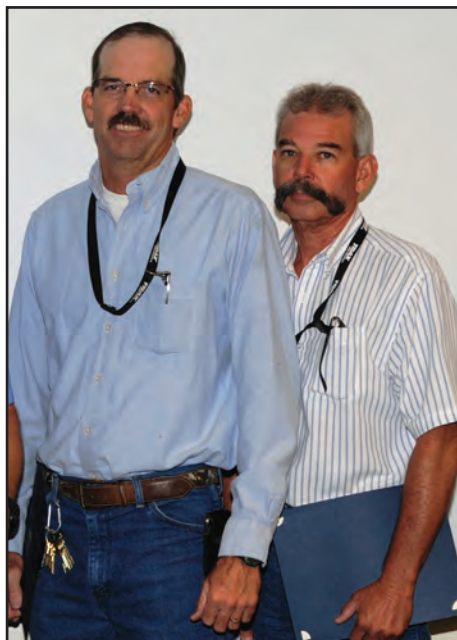
When you hear a story about live-sustaining care being provided at the site of a medical emergency, we are all inspired to greater acts of human kindness. However, sometimes, when people witness someone in need, they hesitate and become nervous – so nervous they aren't able to help.

Following is an incredible story of two brave Yuma Proving Ground individuals who acted in just the opposite manner. They went above and beyond the 'norm' in showing kindness and compassion in a time of crisis.

This past summer, as Randy Ehrlich, threat systems lead, and Curtis Webb, weapons group manager, were driving to Yuma in their government vehicle to visit a vendor, they noticed two vehicles on the north side of Highway 80 near Ave. 6E, that had collided. Although they did not witness the accident, they saw that the occupants were still in their vehicles.

They came to a stop and Ehrlich immediately called 911 -- Webb ran to the first vehicle where an elderly female appeared to be hurt with a possible broken nose and fractured wrist. After assessing the situation, Webb asked another concerned citizen, who had also stopped, to keep the injured lady calm and not to move her.

He and Ehrlich hurried to the second vehicle where the injured occupant had already been removed by another concerned citizen. They noticed, however, that the vehicle was catching fire in the engine compartment. Webb ran back to their truck, grabbed the fire extinguisher, and put the fire out, but it flamed up again. Fortunately, the battery was exposed and accessible. Using tools Ehrlich had retrieved, they sliced through the battery cable to eliminate



(PHOTO BY YOLIE CANALES)

Randy Ehrlich, threat systems lead, and Curtis Webb, weapons group manager, went above and beyond the 'norm' in a time of crisis.

the cause of fire once and for all. Both remained until first responders arrived.

"Their calm assessment of the situation, quick action, and knowledge of and use of available tools, provided a calming presence in this unexpected situation and kept this event from turning significantly worse," said Jaysen Lockett, Safety/Quality Assurance manager for TRAX Test Services.

Both Webb and Ehrlich were presented with certificates of appreciation by Col. Randy Murray, YPG commander, during a recent safety award recognition ceremony. The selfless actions of these two "good Samaritans" kept a bad situation from turning far worse. What they did is a great example of putting great intentions and concern for others into action.



Salsa

Showdown

Making & Tasting

Contest

When: Tuesday, September 23, 2014

Where: Bldg 2105, ROC Atrium

Time: 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

Join us in celebrating Hispanic Heritage Month by participating in our Salsa Tasting Contest. Make your best tasting salsa to share or stop by to enhance your taste buds and vote for your favorite salsa!

Contact Gabby, ext 6110
Yolie, ext 6143 or Rocio, ext 7332

THE OUTPOST

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National Hispanic Heritage Month

"Hispanics: A Legacy of History, a Present of Action and a Future of Success"

15 September – 15 October 2014

Throughout our history, the vision and determination of Hispanic Americans have transformed our Nation. During National Hispanic Heritage Month, the Army honors the immeasurable contributions Hispanic Americans have made and continue to make within our Army and to our Nation. Their legacy is built on honorable service and distinction in every conflict since the Revolutionary War.

Our Nation and our Army are much stronger today because we embrace diversity. Subsequently, the U.S. Army is a more effective fighting force because our leadership values the strengths and depth of experience available within our military and civilian talent pools.

Numbering more than 40 Medal of Honor recipients dating back to the Civil War, Hispanic Americans represent our military with deep, abiding patriotism and heroism and continue to make a difference through their dedicated and professional public and military service.

This month, join us in giving special recognition to our Hispanic-American Soldiers, Civilians and Families whose service and sacrifices have helped make our Army what it is today – a place where people from all walks of life stand proudly together in service to our Nation. Army Strong!

Raymond F. Chandler
Raymond F. Chandler III
Sergeant Major of the Army

Raymond T. Odiermo
Raymond T. Odiermo
General, United States Army
Chief of Staff

John M. McHugh
John M. McHugh
Secretary of the Army

— CHAPLAIN'S CORNER —

Holy Day

By Chaplain (Maj.) Douglas Thomison

Good day, Yuma Proving Ground. Recently, we celebrated Labor Day, the last official holiday of the summer. On Labor Day we consider the contributions and achievements made by all American workers. This holiday also brings to mind the beginning of a season of holidays (the next six months all contain at least one federal holiday).

Now the word holiday is derived from the words holy and day (the notion of holidays has often originated in connection with religious observances). A formal definition of holiday is: "A holiday is a day set aside by custom or by law on which normal activities, especially business or work, are suspended or reduced."

As we approach several "set side" special days, I encourage you to spend some time attempting to define and discuss what these holidays mean for you and yours. It may give you cause to learn something new, further a tradition or start a new one. From a spiritual perspective ones holiday may begin with reading a Bible verse such as Psalm 118:24 which says, "This is the day the LORD has made;

we will rejoice and be glad in it."

There once lived a man of discernment named William Longstaff. He wrote the words to the popular hymn "Take Time to Be Holy." What is interesting is that Longstaff was neither a pastor nor a songwriter. Rather, he was a businessman. You see, after hearing an inspirational sermon from 1 Peter 1:16 which says, "Be holy, because I am holy," he wrote a poem and entitled it "Take Time to be Holy." Longstaff took to heart being intentional in holy living.

I recall one of my seminary professors saying, "you can go through life water skiing, or you can go deep sea diving." In other words you can skim the surface of life or truly explore what is beneath the surface. During your life journey of exploration you will not want to miss the important things in life. Holidays provide an excellent opportunity to go deeper.

Yuma Proving Ground, do enjoy your holidays to the utmost. I encourage you to add some depth and discernment to the already special time marked on your calendar. Have a blessed day!

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YUMA PROVING GROUND**

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SEP 15–OCT 15, 2014

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Sept 15th
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Sept. 21st
Religious Services
Catholic: 0930
Protestant: 1100

Sept 23rd
Salsa Tasting Contest (FREE)
ROC Atrium
1130-1230

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Wrongful actions bring big problems

By Mike Davis, Director, YPG
Network Enterprise Center

Yuma Proving Ground is the home of testing and evaluation of many leading-edge systems critical to the defense of our nation.

Working in that environment can lead down the path of complacency.

We should never forget that numerous adversaries are out to get their hands on the data some of us handle daily.

We should also never forget that their efforts are not happening in some realm distant from us, like the fantasy of the latest spy movie or Edward Snowden's latest statement reported on the evening news.

The adversaries are right in front of us, potentially as far away as our

computers. We know that facilities such as YPG are targets of covert efforts to gain access to information about the research and development activities conducted daily.

When we have "spillages," security violations that result in wrongful release of classified information, we make it easier for adversaries to get access to classified information. A spillage potentially exposes classified information to those who should not be seeing it and the end result is damage to our national security and the increased likelihood of harming U.S. men and women in the uniformed services.

Those of us who have been granted access to classified information must understand our obligations to safeguard

it. Aside from properly classifying and handling information, our responsibilities in the handling and use of classified information include:

- Reporting unauthorized disclosures
- Obtaining proper authorization prior to communicating with the media
- Submitting all material related to your position for pre-publication review prior to public release

Failure to fulfill our obligations under laws and regulations can have serious and lasting consequences. Unauthorized disclosure is a breach of trust, unlawful, and may result in criminal and administrative sanctions under several laws.

Criminal sanctions could include incarceration, fines, or loss of federal retirement benefits. Even if

criminal sanctions are not pursued, administrative sanctions are serious and could include suspension without pay, revocation of clearance, and termination of employment.

Whether or not we handle classified information in our jobs, each of us must remain vigilant and safeguard materials to ensure that they do not fall into the wrong hands. Negligence can put critical data in the hands of our enemies and ultimately puts American warfighters at greater risk of harm or death.

So, know your obligations and always act to protect information. Remaining vigilant and aware of right and wrong behaviors at all times will keep this information out of the wrong hands.

**Next Outpost deadline
is noon September 18th**
Sexual Assault Hotline: 920-3104
(a 24/7 Hotline)
Report Domestic Violence:
328-2720

Soldier For Life Program


"Soldiers past and present are selfless, disciplined, and innovative. They have lived, served, and led with moral and ethical courage. They are Soldiers for Life and their attributes will make them a welcome addition to any organization. Once a Soldier, Always a Soldier." (Gen. Raymond T. Odierno, Chief of Staff, U.S. Army)

The Chief of Staff of the Army created the Soldier for Life Program to enable Army, government and community efforts to facilitate successful reintegration of our Soldiers, Veterans, and their Families in order to keep them Army Strong and instill their values, ethos and leadership within communities. The Soldier for Life Campaign is a holistic approach to the life cycle career of a Soldier. We take care of our teammates by ensuring Soldiers Start Strong, Serve Strong, and Reintegrate Strong so they Remain Army Strong serving their communities after they leave our Army.

The Soldier for Life Program is chartered to develop a national engagement and integration strategy that informs and influences action within and between the Army,

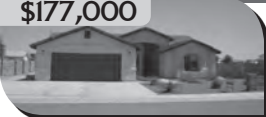
government, and communities to enhance Soldier and Army Family reintegration. Soldier for Life gains synergy by leveraging Army, government, and community efforts designed to employ, educate, and care for Soldiers, Veterans, their Families, and Families of the Fallen. The Soldier for Life Office conducts engagements to develop understanding and awareness of the employment, education and healthcare programs that exist or are evolving to assist Soldiers, Veterans and their Families as they reintegrate following their service to the Nation. Properly supporting our Veterans requires a team approach by the Army, the National Guard, Army Reserves, other government agencies, and the local community. (Resources: Soldier for Life Website: www.army.mil/SFL)

For questions, comments or concerns, please contact Soldier for Life (703) 545-2637 or email: csa.soldier4life@us.army.mil.




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VIEWPOINTS

In addition to the extreme heat, YPG employees need to be mindful of potentially harmful desert animals. We asked members of the workforce which desert creature they are most wary of.



Samantha Howerton
Quality assurance specialist

Sidewinders. They're cool to watch, but that is about it. We actually had a baby one in the foyer last summer, and they like going in and out of the magazines because they are cool inside.



Maria Ramirez
Lead custodian

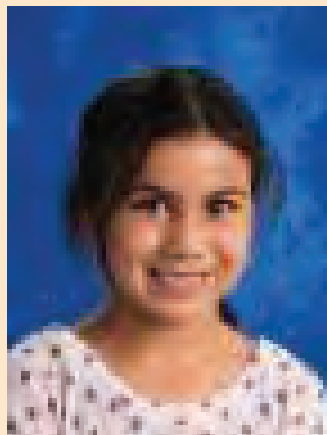
I hate scorpions! They give me the creeps. We see them almost every day at work, and snakes, too. I don't like the lizards, either.



Isaac Russell
Analyst

Coyotes are the animal I would worry about for extended periods in the desert. They get into your gear and food, and if you live out at the edge of the desert and keep chickens, as I do, they eat your chickens. If they're hungry enough, they lose all fear of humans.

Go-Getters



September Go-Getters are from Mrs. Stoermer's 2nd and 3rd grade class Nadia Noriega (left) and Justin Runion (right).

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PHOTOS BY MARK SCHAUER

Lot acceptance testing, the testing of a sample of munitions in real-world conditions to ensure reliability and effectiveness, is an important part of YPG's mission.

KOFA

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a rocket, which is in turn fired into an area Soldiers want to clear. The rocket carries the line about 500 feet, and when the tightening of the cable detonates the charges, the overpressure from the tremendous explosion detonates any IEDs or land mines within 10 to 15 meters of the blast. This is ample width to allow mine rollers to safely pass.

Lot acceptance testing, the testing of a sample of munitions in real-world conditions to ensure reliability and effectiveness, is an important part of YPG's mission. As MICLICs are manufactured, random samples are sent to YPG to be fired prior to the military paying for the lot.

"If these samples work as they are supposed to, we assume the lot is good and the government accepts the lot," said Healy.

Safety is a paramount concern, so certain parts of the lot acceptance test are different from how the explosive would be used in theater. For example, the MICLIC's detonation is done remotely by a weapons operator, and all test personnel required to observe



With the MICLIC attached to the Mark 22 rocket and ready to fire, weapons operator Jeff Trujillo pulls the weapon's firing pin.

the firing do so from a covered position far from the detonation site or, if closer, from inside an armored vehicle.

YPG test officer Robert Archibale, who has conducted lot acceptance tests on the MICLIC for over a decade, has an even more personal connection to these explosive devices: while serving in the Marine Corps, he used them to breach an Iraqi-laid mine field during the liberation of Kuwait in the first Gulf

War.

"It's a great feeling," said Archibale of his work. "Even though I no longer wear a uniform, I am still helping out the military by testing items and making sure they work as designed. Secondly, we make sure they are safe: unlike some of our adversary countries, we care about our military personnel and don't want the tools we provide to harm them."



The power of the detonation is enough to destroy any buried land mines or improvised explosive devices within 10 to 15 meters of the blast, ample room to allow a mine roller and infantry to pass.

Fire! The rocket carries the MICLIC downrange.

Tribal consultations receive major emphasis at YPG

By Chuck Wullenjohn

The federal government formally recognizes 565 American Indian governments and Alaska native entities, 22 within the state of Arizona.

Since the earliest days of the American republic, the federal government recognized tribes as sovereign nations with inherent powers of self-government and religious freedom, and set forth a legal relationship in the Constitution, as well as various treaties, laws, executive orders, and court decisions. It is the policy of the federal government to respect tribal interests and, for this reason, U.S. Army Yuma Proving Ground places great emphasis in frequently consulting with Native American tribes regarding cultural resource and environmental issues.

Consultation is a process to ensure meaningful and timely input by tribal officials. It is a dialogue in which information and opinions are respectfully exchanged in both directions.



(PHOTO BY CHUCK WULLENJOHN)

U.S. Army Yuma Proving Ground places great emphasis in frequently consulting with Native American tribes regarding cultural resource and environmental issues.

YPG officials regularly consult with the 13 Arizona tribes that have identified themselves as having ties to the 1300 square mile proving ground, as well as the Quechan tribe, which is headquartered in California.

The details of YPG's human history go back many millennia,

much further than many can imagine. The archaeological record shows humans have traversed the modern-day boundaries of YPG for at least 7,000 years. Tucked away amidst the post's vast ranges are jaw-dropping, virtually inaccessible Native American historical

SEE **TRIBAL** page 9

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TRIBAL

FROM PAGE 1

sites, running the gamut from simple trails with scattered debris, like arrowheads and pottery sherds, to canyon campgrounds covered with scores of rich artifacts of a bygone time.

The stewardship of these irreplaceable cultural resources is a high YPG priority, with the proving ground annually performing detailed surveys of between 12,000 and 15,000 acres. If necessary, the installation takes steps to protect significant sites, from erecting signs and gates to other activities. Trespassing on military land is unsafe, particularly so in YPG's case, and a violation of federal law.

The most recent tribal consultation took place in late August, a two-day event that drew top leaders from YPG and tribal governments. Over 30 people attended.

"We have a commitment to the tribes to take care of the land," explained Dr. Meg McDonald, YPG cultural resources manager. "The meetings are meant to discuss our actions, effects on historic properties and, basically, to establish and maintain a two-way dialogue. Holding these meetings at YPG means we can visit sites together, which is always worthwhile."

YPG Biologist Daniel Steward presented an extensive briefing about natural resources management at the consultation in which he discussed a number of issues pertaining to local wildlife populations, such as the desert tortoise, Sonoran Pronghorn, golden eagle, bighorn sheep, and more. A lively give-and-take ensued, with tribal representatives pointing out that tortoises and bighorn sheep are revered animals to them.

"Input from the tribes helps us avoid impacts to cultural resources and helps us gather information that helps us balance our use," said Steward.

He says his favorite aspect of these meetings is visiting resource areas together with tribal representatives in which the Native Americans share stories and songs based around the YPG landscape. "When you're looking up at a mountaintop and they're telling you about its religious significance, that's pretty incredible" he said. "The stories, legends and history they share puts the desert in a whole new perspective."



(PHOTO BY CHUCK WULLENJOHN)

The most recent tribal consultation took place in late August, a two-day event that drew top leaders from YPG and tribal governments.

Some people in the modern world may question the value of considering cultural issues dating back hundreds or even thousands of years. Steward has a ready response.

"This is our heritage," he says. "Present-day society lives on this continent, but we are not the first persons to be here. The human footprint is much older. We need to remember where we came from, for it helps us appreciate the land even more."

Manfred Scott, acting chair of the Quechan cultural committee, took an active role in the conference by asking questions and stating concerns. This was his third YPG consultation and believes meetings like this are important.

"Government agencies tend to look at the land in a scientific way, but the tribes bring a different, perspective," he said. "It's not just the cultural materials; it's everything – the landscape, the environment, the mountains, the animals. This is where we're from. The Quechan have lived in this area for thousands of years."

Wholistic perspectives like this make tribal consultations invaluable.

Resilience Tips

Submitted by Paul J. Kilanski, ACS, Master Resilience Trainer

Physical - Physical resilience influences your mood. Taking daily walks of 20 minutes or more can enhance your mood by combating lethargy associated with feeling down and/or depressed, therefore, boosting your immune system functioning and overall resistance to getting sick.

Social - Make a regular plan to check in with your battle buddy, even if things are going well for both of you. Maintaining your social connections is just like maintaining physical fitness; it's easier to give and get help during tough times if you've kept up your relationships.

Spiritual - Take the time to do some serious thinking about your life vision. Having a clear sense of what provides purpose and meaning can help to make you a more resilient person.

Emotional - Positive emotions can undo the negative effects of negative emotions. Emotions of anxiety and anger correspond with muscle tension, increased heart rate, and fast, shallow breathing. Undo these effects by finding a way to generate positive emotions: appreciate what you have, find humor in the situation, or think about what can improve in the future.

Family - A resilient Family finds strength and acceptance in friendships with neighbors, co-workers, informal caregivers and extended Family members.

Call the TRICARE Nurse Advice Line this Back to School Season!

During and after back-to-school season, parents have many 'to-do' items. As you prepare to send your children back to school, or as you ramp up for another year of homeschooling efforts, keep in mind that TRICARE provides several resources to help parents keep their families healthy.

Aches, pains and fevers can put a damper on the learning experience, and sniffles and sore throats can send your children home from school early. Be sure to contact TRICARE's Nurse Advice Line (NAL) for advice on what to do. The NAL is the Military Health System's (MHS) newest initiative to improve ready access to safe, high quality care. When you call, the nurse will ask you about your child's illness. Please make sure that your child is present so you can assess their condition as

the nurse asks questions.

If your child is over age 13, the nurse may ask to speak to your child directly. Feel free to stay on another line or use a speakerphone option if that makes you more comfortable. If self-care is recommended, the nurse may provide you with advice on home treatments and remedies. If your child needs an appointment, the NAL will try to schedule one for you at your local MTF, or will advise you to seek care within the network.

The NAL helps you get access to the right type of care at the right time. To learn more about the services the Nurse Advice Line offers, visit www.TRICARE.mil/NAL. For more information on preparing for the back to school season with TRICARE, visit www.TRICARE.mil/backtoschool.

Mud slinging

Deep in the ooze
great fun for CRTC
participants

By Yolie Canales

Alaskans in general take advantage of their short summer months as often as they can by joining summer activities and have fun along the way.

Mud runs, which are one of several summer activities, have exploded in popularity over the past few years in Alaska. One example is the Warrior Dash, which started as one run in 2009 with 2,000 participants.

In 2012, 65 Warrior Dash events were held across the world, involving more than 1 million participants. Today, you have no shortage of mud-related “obstacle” races from which to choose. Each race is different, so it’s important to know

exactly what you’re getting into before you sign up. Mud Factor is the misfit of mud runs, no keeping score, no first or last place, just thousands of MF’ers out playing in the mud!

Most recently, members of the Cold Regions Test Center participated in the 2014 Mud Factor Seriously Fun, 5k Obstacle Run. There was no competition so there were no winners, just a lot of employees having fun in the sun and mud!



Members of the Cold Regions Test Center pose for a photo, nice and clean, right before the fun begins. Afterward, everyone was cloaked in mud (below right).

(PHOTOS BY JENNIFER LAWLESS)



Rusty Pochatko (above left) from the maintenance shop has begun the muddy trail as his clothes are proof of where he has been, however, it is not over yet. Test Officer Elissa Palm zips down hill (below left) as spectators cheer her on. For Rusty, Elissa and the other CRTC participants, this was the final goal of the event — get as muddy as you can but have fun!

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