

THE OUTPOST

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YPG major player in unmanned aircraft world

By Chuck Wullenjohn

At the conclusion of World War II, nearly 70 years ago, Army Air Corps General Hap Arnold made an interesting observation. He said that the war had been won partially through the efforts of Americans flying aircraft, but predicted “the next war may be fought by airplanes with no men in them at all.”

That was a startling prediction. Though it didn't prove accurate in the conflicts immediately following World War II, we may see it coming true soon. This past month, the military reached the two million flight hour milestone mark for unmanned aircraft. When one considers that at the start of combat activities in Southwest Asia in 2003 the Air Force flew only one unmanned combat air patrol per day, while averaging well over 60. Now



(PHOTO BY MARK SCHAUER)

Yuma Proving Ground's UAS workload has steadily increased over the past 10 years. Two technicians work on the Shadow during a test at Cibola Range.

that represents quite a feat.

Yuma Proving Ground is a major player in the Unmanned Aircraft System (UAS) testing world for both military and private industry customers. Its UAS workload has steadily increased over the past ten years. Today, the proving ground tests between seven and 10 different UAS-types each week for a total of 20 to 30 weekly individual flights. The annual total of unmanned aircraft flight hours performed within the

proving ground's restricted airspace numbers well over 3000.

What attracts unmanned aircraft testers to Yuma? A number of factors make up that answer. Foremost is Yuma's year-round good weather, over 360 days per year, and Yuma's huge expanse of restricted airspace (over 2000 square miles over the proving ground alone.) Multiple airfields are available at YPG, with runways of varying lengths that enable testers to operate several

flights at the same, plus plenty of hanger-space. In contrast, facilities in other states might have a limited number of available runways or require that all flights return to a single hub. Lastly, the proving ground's aviation workforce has developed a well-earned reputation for technical expertise and high quality customer service.

Robyn Tiaden, chief of YPG's aviation systems branch, says another

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Foreign travelers armed with information

By Mark Schauer

The United States enjoys one of the highest standards of living in the world.

It is easy for American citizens to assume that the conveniences and legal rights they enjoy in this country exist all across the globe, but the reality is often different. Things taken for granted here—the ubiquity of credit card acceptance, the ability to see a doctor using health insurance to pay for the service—may not be available or valid in other nations.

Fortunately for YPG personnel, the Directorate of Plans, Training, Mobilization, and Security (DPTMS) provides guidance and State Department travel alerts to any Soldier, government civilian, contractor, or Family member over the age of 14 travelling to a foreign nation.

“Ever since the attack on Khobar Towers in Saudi Arabia in 1996, one of the recommendations was that all Soldiers travelling outside the United States should get a briefing about the area they are travelling to,” said Ronald Rodriguez, DPTMS director.

“That became known as the Area of Responsibility brief.”

Army regulations now require that all personnel travelling to a foreign nation on official business receive an area of responsibility briefing within three months of travelling to that country. In recent years, YPG personnel have conducted testing in countries in Central and South America, Europe, the Middle East, and Australia.

In addition to travel on official business, DPTMS encourages personnel who travel to foreign countries on their own time to seek out a briefing prior to travel. Even YPG employees who vacation to unexpected locales are accommodated. For example, Rodriguez says some Vietnam veterans who work at the proving ground have revisited that country on multiple occasions and received updated briefings before each trip.

“Most people at YPG have some sort of security clearance,” said Vince Avanzini, antiterrorism officer. “You cannot simply leave your clearance in

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(PHOTO BY MARK SCHAUER)

YPG antiterrorism officer Vince Avanzini gives an area of responsibility brief to YPG personnel traveling to Mexico. The briefs are available to all YPG personnel and their families who travel outside of the United States, even if they are going to a foreign nation for personal travel. “We want to present them an accurate picture of what is really going on,” he said. “These briefings are not intended to deter anyone from travelling to a particular country.”

UNMANNED

FROM PAGE 1

factor exists as well. “We offer unique instrumentation and a variety of target sets for our customers,” she said, “that not all other test ranges have.”

These target sets can include armored vehicle hulls or stationary targets such as buildings or fighting positions, but they can also include something as simple as a thermal or infrared board which permits a sensor to seek the thermal conductivity that would radiate from a warm vehicle engine or even the warmth generated by a group of people.

“We like to think customers get more bang for the buck here than at other test facilities,” said Tiaden with a smile. “Customers get their work accomplished in a timely fashion here, plus they don’t often have to

wait around due to bad weather or flight congestion.”

Unmanned aircraft tested at YPG have ranged from a two-foot wingspan vehicle launched by hand, a 60-foot wide long-endurance surveillance aircraft that takes off from a runway interspersed with manned aircraft, to an unmanned rotorcraft that carries a payload of over 6000 pounds. World records set at YPG include a 75-foot wide glider that flew for 14 days during the summer of 2010 at altitudes that climbed above 70,000 feet.

Whether test customers plan to use YPG’s restricted airspace to test the initial flight capabilities of a new unmanned aircraft system or look to obtain a formal assessment on specific aircraft performance characteristics, Yuma Proving Ground’s test experts are willing participants.

THE OUTPOST

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SAFETY CORNER

Ten commandments of safety for supervisors

Submitted by Tony Brockington

Your job in management places you in a unique position of trust. For not only does the Army rely on you, as the direct representative of management, to apply its policies wisely and fairly; also entrusted to you is the obligation to safeguard the well-being of the workers in your charge. No responsibility transcends this in importance. In this respect your job is akin to the "stewardship" of Biblical days: As a supervisor, you are indeed your brother's keeper. On-the-job accidents represent a serious threat to the physical well-being of your workers. Their prevention calls for your constant vigilance.

Therefore, as you guide your employees safely through their daily work, be guided by these precepts:

1. You are a supervisor and thus, in a sense, have two families. Care for your people at work as you would care for your people at home. Be sure each of your workers understands and accepts personal responsibility for safety.

2. Know the rules of safety that apply to the work you supervise. Never let it be said that one of your workers was injured because you were not aware of the precautions required on the job.

3. Anticipate the risks that may arise from changes in equipment or methods. Make use of the expert safety advice that is available to help you guard against such new hazards.

4. Encourage your workers to discuss with you the hazards of their work. No job should proceed where a question of safety remains unanswered. When you are receptive to the ideas of your workers, you tap a source of firsthand knowledge that will help you prevent needless loss

and suffering.

5. Instruct your employees to work safely, as you would guide and counsel your family at home—with persistence and patience.

6. Follow up your instructions consistently. See to it that workers make use of the safeguards provided to them. If necessary, enforce safety rules by disciplinary action. Do not fail the Army, which has sanctioned these rules — or your workers, who need them.

7. Demonstrate safety in your own work habits and personal conduct. Do not appear as a hypocrite in the eyes of your workers.

8. Investigate and analyze every injury — however slight — that befalls any of your workers. Where minor injuries go unheeded, crippling accidents may later strike.

9. Cooperate fully with those in the organization who are actively concerned with employee safety. Their dedicated purpose is to keep your workers fully able and on the job, and to cut down the heavy personal toll of accidents.

10. Remember: Not only does accident prevention reduce human suffering and loss; from the practical viewpoint, it is no more than good business.

Safety, therefore, is one of your prime obligations to Yuma Proving Ground, your fellow managers, and your co-worker.

By leading your workers into "thinking safety" as well as working safely day-by-day, you will win their loyal support and cooperation. More than that, you will gain in personal stature. Good workers do good work for a good leader.

TRAVELERS

FROM PAGE 2

a drawer when you go travelling—it travels with you."

Yuma's close proximity to the Mexican border makes that country the most common foreign destination for YPG personnel. However, the closeness skews perceptions in many, making it seem too familiar to seem foreign. Avanzinni stresses that it is indeed another nation, with different laws and criminal activity that foreign tourists should be keenly aware of.

"The fact that it is a beautiful place doesn't change the fact that narco-terrorism is prevalent," said Avanzinni. "The fact that you are going to a border town or outlying area doesn't alleviate the issue of the cartels."

To accommodate the need, DPTMS has hosted well-attended briefings on travel to Mexico every other Wednesday for over seven years. As in all their other area of responsibility briefings, it is open to any YPG employee or their family members.

"It is an anti-terrorism briefing focused to a great extent on how the cartels have ramped up in the last decade or so," said Rodriguez. "There are also travel tips about taking taxis, staying in hotels, and tourist spots. These are crime prevention measures that you would take for granted here, but have to keep in mind when travelling outside the United States."

"Enjoy yourself, but be aware about the country and city you are going to. Crime and violence can happen anywhere, but there are places in the world where you need to be more alert so you don't become a victim of that environment."

— Vince Avanzini, YPG antiterrorism officer

Avanzinni adds that the purpose is not to deter people from travelling to foreign nations, but to provide them with accurate information about conditions and security.

"Enjoy yourself, but be aware about the country and city you are going to," said Avanzinni. "Crime and violence can happen anywhere, but there are places in the world where you need to be more alert so you don't become a victim of that environment."

DPTMS can be reached at 328-2499.

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2 years in faraway land for YPG worker

By Chuck Wullenjohn

Two years away from home is a long time, but when one adds living in a combat zone as an additional element, it can be life changing.

Yuma Proving Ground employee Janine Shaffer, a native of Douglas, Az., recently returned from two years in Afghanistan where she worked in a military compound providing personnel support to men and women in uniform, as well as civilians. She was one of over a dozen YPG civilians who served overseas in Southwest Asia during the past ten years.

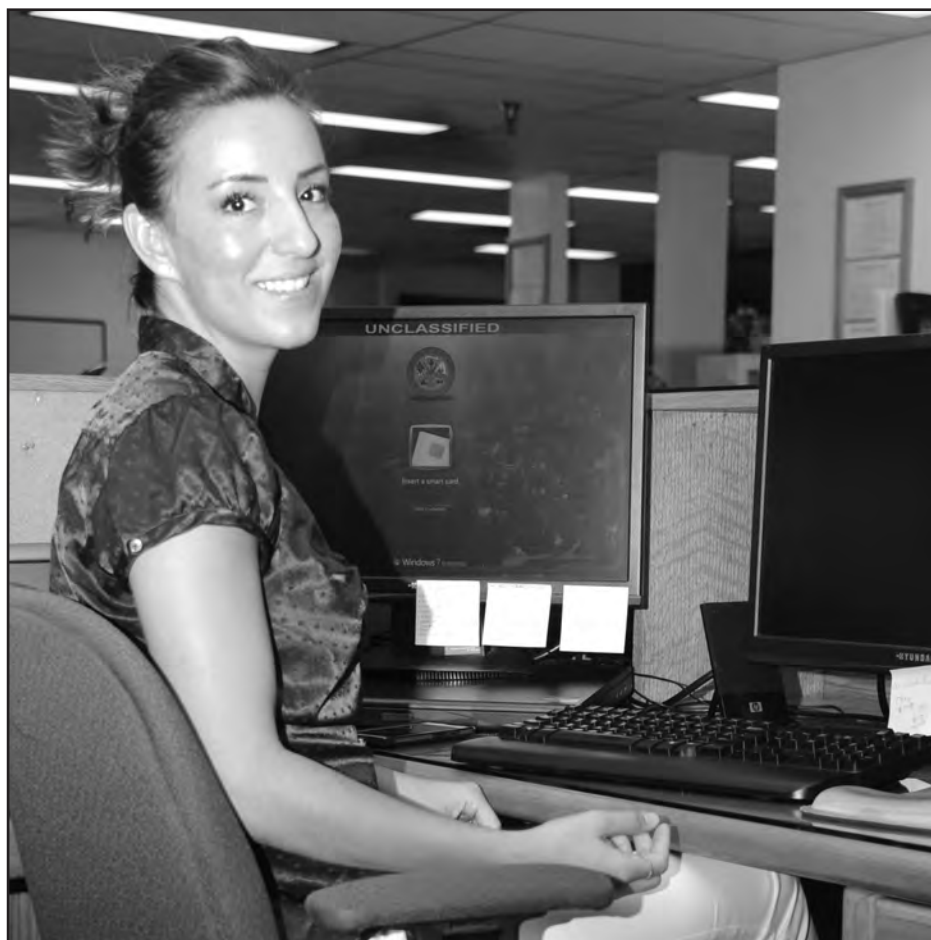
When she arrived in Kandahar, Afghanistan, in 2012, Shaffer was assigned quarters in a modular structure housing four people per room. Each “mod” contained seven rooms as well as one shared bathroom and three shower stalls.

She found her first 24 hours disconcerting, with the compound under attack by rockets the first morning. “Oh, Lord, what did I volunteer to get myself into?” she asked herself. “What am I doing here?”

The situation improved later that morning when she went to work and met a group of people who had been around awhile. They took her under their protective wing to show her the ropes. Used to life in the desert, she adapted quickly.

Soon, the rocket attacks became somewhat routine (if such a thing can become “routine.”). Her typical month was made up of 12 hour workdays for seven days each week. Holidays were largely ignored, except for turkey dinners served at Thanksgiving and Christmas.

Though the desert heat in Afghanistan is similar to that of Yuma, Shaffer said one big difference existed – people had to walk outside everywhere within the compound



(PHOTO BY MARK SCHAUER)

Yuma Proving Ground employee Janine Shaffer, a native of Douglas, Az., recently returned from two years in Afghanistan.

which held several thousand people of numerous nationalities.

“People in Yuma are used to leaving one air conditioned building and driving to another in their air conditioned car,” she explained. “We walked everywhere, from going to the dining hall, to the post office or to any other office. The sun really bore down during these times.”

“We worked hard for long hours, but I actually grew to like it,” said Shaffer. “There was no stress about paying bills, thinking about what to wear for work the next day, car repairs, or other material things like that. The experience changed me as a person and gave me a new outlook.”

Not all the experiences were good, however. She observed many

Soldiers undergoing painful marital problems due to being apart from their spouses. Bouts of loneliness were common.

One thing that never failed to raise spirits, however, was receiving mail from home. “Care packages mean an unbelievable amount – it was everyone’s morale,” she said. “If you never received any cards, letters or packages, your morale plummeted. I never realized how important mail could be.”

Shaffer advises people to send mail to personnel overseas because of the great impact it has. “Let people know how you feel about them. If you know someone deployed, send at least one package per month containing peanuts, cookies, or

whatever.” Shaffer’s mother sent Little Debbie snack cakes, home baked cookies and other special treats treat not available in Afghanistan.

She also pointed out that letters and treats from elementary school kids, churches and other types of organizations were happily received and enjoyed by everyone. Letters were read over and over and passed around, sometimes posted on bulletin boards.

Shaffer was fortunate in that YPG reserved a job position for her upon returning, a situation others in Afghanistan didn’t enjoy. She came into contact with Americans working as contractors who had no idea what they would do upon returning to the States.

She underwent a bit of culture shock upon returning to Yuma earlier this summer, mostly from the fact there were so many people bustling about. She also had to get used to the food and driving a car again.

It bothers her that most Americans have nonchalant attitudes about the war. “We were living it daily,” she said. “You saw people getting hurt and it was heartbreaking. I, personally, had close friends badly injured in a rocket attack, and one later died. I want combat operations to end, too, but it hurts that people often don’t even pay attention. Combat in Southwest Asia has gone on so long that people have somehow become immune to it.”

But she harbors no regrets about her experience. “Serving overseas made me proud of Yuma Proving Ground for I know that what takes place here prevents injuries, saves lives and helps us win the war,” she said. “I felt like I was part of something big and had personal impact. I would do it again in a heartbeat.”

VIEWPOINTS

YPG personnel work hard, and tend to stay with the Army for decades. With long hours over decades, everyone is bound to have a bad day on the job. We asked members of the workforce to reflect on bad days they've had at work.

Mike Taylor
Purchasing



A bad day at home beats the best day at work, but I don't think I've ever had a bad day at work. In almost 25 years here, I've found some days are more difficult, challenging and tiring than others, but I've been blessed to work with good people. You'll encounter difficult people and situations in any job: When your work days are consistently bad, it's obvious your attitude toward the job has changed and you should find a different job.

About 20 years ago, we were out surveying a location where we were going to put up a KTM mount and targets. We had just gotten a sermon about not scratching up the trucks, and I was out there on a hill in the desert scrub: there was a big bush, and I took the sermon to heart and went around the bush and fell 20 feet into a wash. Luckily, I was only going about three miles per hour and the bed of the wash was gravel, not boulders. The next thing I knew, I was hanging in my seat belt with blood coming down my head and there was smoke: the handheld radio hit me in the head, and it turned out the smoke was powder from the air bag. I needed eight stitches. That was a pretty different day.



William Howard
Mechanical Technician



Chief Warrant Officer 3 Shawn McCauley-Cook
Airborne test force chief

It was kind of a bad day when I broke my leg on a jump. It was 10 years ago at Fort Campbell: I was a jumpmaster and because of deployments I had been waiting a long time to get the next jump to achieve the next rating as a jumpmaster. The end result was I broke my leg. My son was only 10 days old, and we had a two year old, too, and there I was laid up in the hospital. I landed in a tree at Fort Bragg once, too, on a static line jump. I've had several hundred career jumps, so most of them were not nearly as eventful.

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German Army tests new



A key improvement to the MG5 is its improved optics, which the German infantrymen used for devastating accuracy against the automated smart targets seen here. "We train the visiting units to operate the targets, and from there they can conduct basic operations, and do troubleshooting and minor field repairs," said Luis Arroyo, chief of YPG's training and exercise management office.

By Mark Schauer

What weighs 24 pounds and fires 800 rounds per minute with deadly precision?

Armchair enthusiasts know it as the Heckler and Koch 121, but the German army has designated it the MG5 -- a replacement of the MG3, the design of which dates back to World War II. The MG5 fires standard 7.62 North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) cartridges, has modern sighting optics that greatly improve the weapon's accuracy over its predecessor, which only had iron sights, and NATO rails for mounting additional equipment like lights and radio equipment.

"This machine gun can also be fired while standing,

which wasn't possible with the old one," said Col. Christian Brandes, infantry chief for the German army's Concepts and Capability Development Center. "We're not losing that much weight, but in all capabilities it is better than the MG3. Its main feature is that it is much more accurate than its predecessor." The MG4, a smaller weapon, will continue to be used.

The German army is eager to adopt the new, more-versatile weapon for its infantry, but first wanted to subject it to rigorous operational testing in realistic natural environments. Yuma Proving Ground met the needs for this.

"Our intent was to find out if the machine gun meets

our requirements in hot and dry conditions," explained Brandes. "If it is treated badly under rugged, very hot conditions, will it still operate?"

Germany's temperate environment lacks the extreme conditions German soldiers have faced in recent years in places like Afghanistan.

Prior to fielding the new weapon, the testing was conducted to answer a number of questions: How well can the weapon be handled by infantrymen whose hands are slippery with gritty sweat? Is the weapon's optical sight compatible with infantrymen wearing sunglasses? Does the machine gun's bipod provide a suitable grip on sand or



(PHOTOS BY MARK SCHAUER)

Two infantrymen with the German Army load their MG5 machine guns and prepare to fire at targets during their two week test at the proving ground. Among other things, the testers wanted to confirm the weapon's bipod gripped properly on rugged desert terrain.

machine gun at YPG

rocky desert pavement? Will it still function in dust and dirt, even when it isn't cleaned for several days?

American Army testers ask similar questions when testing its own equipment.

Led by Brandes, two German Army infantry squadrons, one mounted and one airborne, participated in the live fire test, conducting simulated missions across one of YPG's live fire 'smart' ranges with automated pop-up targets erected by YPG's Training and Exercise Management Office. All the German non-commissioned officers had past experience serving in Afghanistan.

Though YPG is primarily used for testing, the installation's training ranges are robust enough to accommodate the needs of multiple units simultaneously. In fact, while the Germans were testing, members of the Arizona National Guard were conducting live fire training on a nearby range without anything beyond the sound of gunfire noticeable to others.

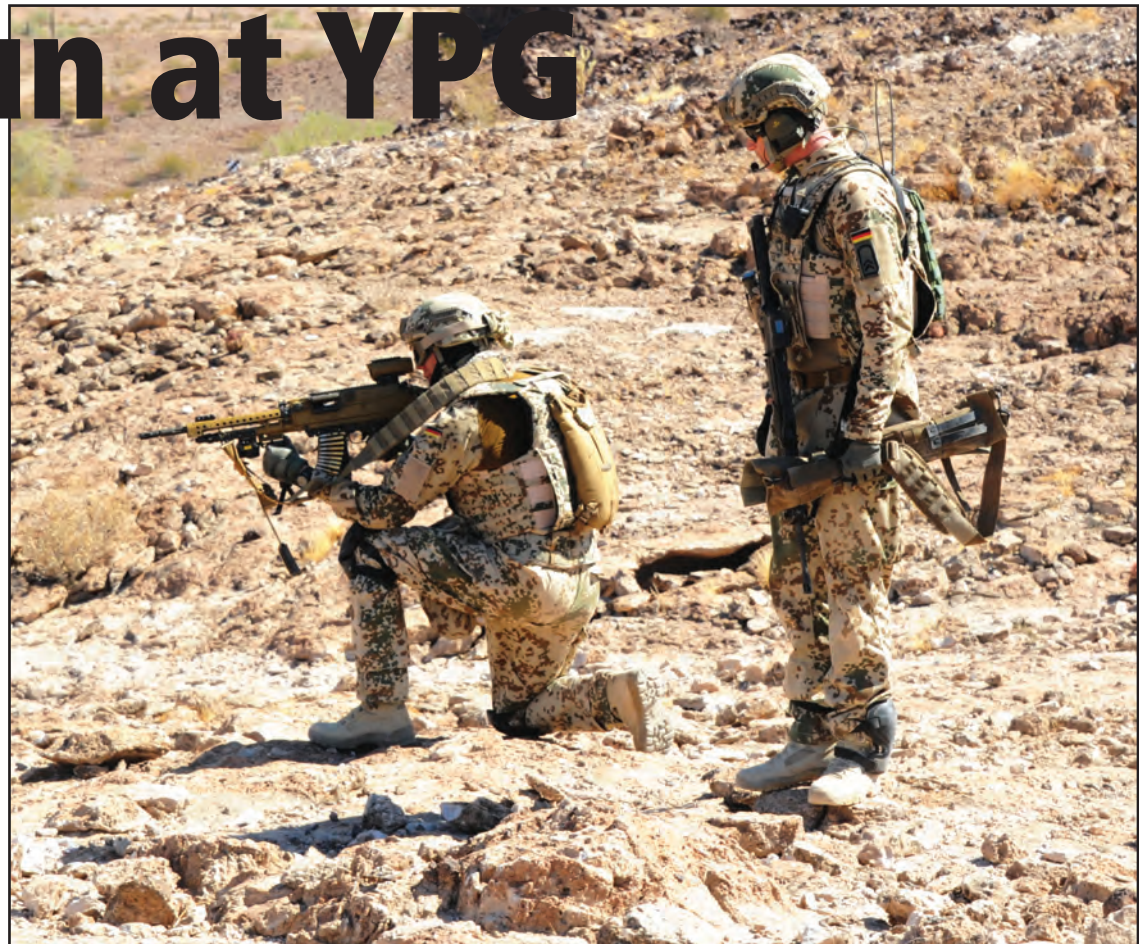
"We are on the proving ground, so there are tests in progress that they are not privy to," said Luis Arroyo, training and exercise management office chief. "The good thing is that our ranges are generally away from the test ranges."

Of course, there were administrative hurdles to overcome in the months prior to the German test.

"Transferring weapons of war from one country to another is always a big issue," explained Brandes. "We wanted to test in a NATO country -- and only one country -- so we wouldn't have to move the weapons over a border more than once. We also wanted to ensure the climate was as extreme as possible."

For this reason, the tropical portion of the test following the desert portion at YPG takes place in Hawaii rather than facilities used by YPG's Tropic Regions Test Center in Panama and other South American countries.

Testers with the German Army wanted to put the MG5 through its paces in the hottest, driest conditions possible, and were favored with record high temperatures during part of their time at YPG. Despite the extreme conditions, there were no heat stress injuries during the test. "They are infantrymen," said Col. Christian Brandes, infantry chief at the German Army's Capability and Concepts Development Center. "They love sweating, they love firing. They are having a good time."



Unlike its predecessor, the MG5 can be fired with or without a bipod. Here, a German infantryman tries firing the weapon from his shoulder.



—CHAPLAIN'S CORNER—

Great Expectations

By Chaplain Douglas (Maj.)
Thomison

Good day Yuma Proving Ground. Do you know anyone who is reluctant to get out of the house and try something new? I know someone who is truly reticent in exploring the world near and far. However, once he does try a new pursuit, he is in bliss. So why not seek more out of life?

Sometimes we set our expectations too low and forget that often “the best is yet come.” We settle for the norm. I heard a story of a boy who took an ocean cruise with his family. During the day, he and his brother were allowed to run all over the ship, but the family gathered each night for dinner together. The menu had many delicious entrees to choose from, and it was possible to even order things that were not on the menu, as long as the ingredients were available in the kitchen.

Faced with that extensive menu options, the boy still ordered a hot dog, French fries and cold milk every evening. On the last night onboard, as the waiter whisked away his empty plate and silverware, he placed a fork

back on the table. The boy tried to get the waiter to take the fork, but the waiter said, keep the fork; the best is yet to come. Soon the waiters brought out great trays filled with Baked Alaska for each diner.

Too often we are willing to settle for what we know and are comfortable with (the hot dog and French fries), rather than expect something great is in store. So why don't we think more often that the best is yet to come?

The Holy Bible tells us the best is yet to come. Revelation 21 describes a new heaven and a new earth, a description that something better is to come. In verse 4 it says that God will wipe every tear from our eyes, death will be no more. Mourning and crying and pain will be no more.

So often we set our expectations low if we do not expect the best. As a person of hope, you can assert that the best is yet to come and God has got it under control. Hot dogs and fries are fine, but don't limit yourself to the ordinary. Seek the best today, tomorrow, and always! Have a blessed day.



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- How to request lost DD Form 214s
- How to request your Official Military Personnel File

VLTP needed for workers facing hardship

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:

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- OGAZ, SONJA, CPAC, EMERGENCY GALLBLADDER SURGERY AND RECOVERY
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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 Optional Form 630-A and forward it back to the CPAC. We'll see the donation gets to the appropriate recipient. Please note, we 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.

Just to recap: the recipients must use all available sick and annual leave before they receive donations - donors aren't funding a new vacation plan for recipients. Donors can only donate annual leave; sick leave is not eligible to be donated. If the recipient doesn't use all leave donated, that leftover leave is divided up among donors and returned to them.

Depression in College: What Parents Should Know



Most young people heading off to college are eager to experience all that it offers, but some will also experience clinical depression, a treatable mental illness that affects over 10 million adults with about 9% being between the ages of 18 and 25. Spotting the disease early can make for more successful treatment. If you're a parent, be aware of any family history of depression that increases the risk, but you should also guard against misconceptions about depression, such as symptoms of loneliness, stress, being disorganized, disappointment with classes, or the breakup of a former high school romance. All are stresses and cause sadness, but are not root contributors to major depression, which is a disease. To intervene sooner, be aware of any period of two weeks or longer during which there is either depressed mood or loss of interest or pleasure in school, and undesirable changes in sleep patterns, eating, energy level, concentration, and self-image. Mental health counseling is available on college campuses, and depression is a key complaint. Don't allow stigma to delay a referral to effective, professional help.

Source: <http://www.nlm.nih.gov> [search: "college depression"]

Resilience tips for employees

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.



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A Poem for Women's Equality Month observance

Did you know that August 26 is Women's Equality Day in the United States?

It is a day to recognize the work of the people who helped secure women's right to vote in the U.S. It is a momentous day to mark the full rights of women as American citizens. The title for the day began in 2004, in a proclamation released by George W. Bush, the U.S. President at that

This poem is a tribute to the women who helped all U.S. women to achieve the right to vote. Here is to female empowerment, pride and future steps for gender equality.

Equality and Vision

Self-respecting we stand,
Where once we did hunch over
With guilt, second-prize ribbons and a
Countertop lined with ingredients to cook.
We stand tall in the glow of securing the
Right to vote, as we step toward visions of
Our equality with the muscular forces -
Let's see the vision soon without wearing glasses,
Even within home walls where cameras do not go.
There is still work to do, as we strive for
Equal pay and we are haunted by the
Memories of physical and emotional abuse,
From past years, last months and this morning.
There are bodies that choose to chain us down.
We speak up louder with each day that passes,
Striving to reach a volume that cracks windows of
Disregard. We do not pass on opportunities to
Honor and represent the women who
Have brought us to the path we travel today.
We thank these women, we step into their footprints, and
We stretch the size of their shoes a little more with
Each day that passes.

I hope that we honor them well.

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An additional thank-you to Jem at Jem Farmer for the "word bank" prompts that also helped inspire me to write this poem.



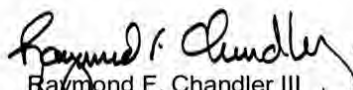
Celebrating Women's Equality Day – 26 August 2014

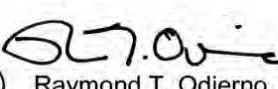
The Nation's annual observance of Women's Equality Day commemorates the addition of the 19th Amendment to the Constitution, which guaranteed women the right to vote. This victory moved our Nation forward on the path towards equal civil and political rights for all Americans.

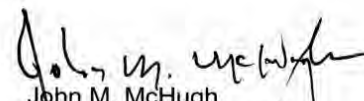
The roles of women in the Army have changed dramatically since 1775. Then, women only nursed the ill and wounded, laundered and mended clothing and cooked for the troops in camp on campaign – services that did not exist among the Army's uniformed personnel until the 20th Century. Now, women make up nearly 16 percent of the Active Army and serve in 95 percent of all Army occupations. Women continue to have a crucial role in current operations, and their contributions to defending freedom underscore their dedication and willingness to share great sacrifices.

We are incredibly proud of our courageous and patriotic Army personnel. Daily, each member proves people are the strength of our Army. Together, they make the Army the strength of our Nation. The Army has long been a leader in understanding the power and potential that is created by embracing diversity in the ranks. To that end, women of the highest caliber have served in our Army for generations and have proven that sacrifice and selfless service are genderless. We are a world-class force because we recruit and integrate the best talent in ways that enhance decision-making and inspire high performance.

This Women's Equality Day, join us in honoring those who fought tirelessly for women's right to vote. We are grateful for all who have helped to shape America and to make America's Army what it is today – a place where women and men from all walks of life stand proudly together in service to our Nation. Army Strong!


Raymond F. Chandler III
Sergeant Major of the Army


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


John M. McHugh
Secretary of the Army

Next Outpost deadline is noon August 21st

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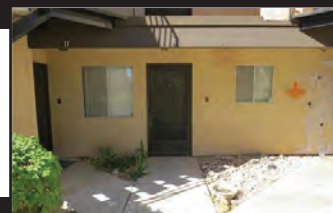
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