

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

Vietnam veterans honored at Spirit of Yuma Festival

By Mark Schauer

American veterans who served in the two World Wars were greeted with parades and other ecstatic effusions of national pride and thanks for their service and sacrifice.

Soldiers who fought in Vietnam, on the other hand, a lengthier conflict waged in nebulous circumstances as a polarized civilian population at home watched on television, were not only ignored, but sometimes even insulted or attacked by fellow citizens upon their return to the States.

The Vietnam experience was a painful fault line in American history that continues to influence the social and political landscape. As the country approaches the 50th anniversary of the first major buildup of U.S. forces in Vietnam, U.S. Army Yuma Proving Ground's annual display at the fourth Spirit of Yuma Military Festival was focused on artwork produced by American serviceman as they were deployed in the jungles of Vietnam in the 1960s and early 1970s.

"I think the 50th anniversary commemoration is a national level of

recognition that we owe to the veterans who served in Vietnam," said Heidner. "This exhibit is part of Yuma Proving Ground's help in saying that long overdue thank you."

The veterans who viewed the pieces may be in advanced middle age today, but the years melted away as each framed painting brought back a flood of memories shared with family members, other patrons, or anyone else within earshot. Whether an impressionistic painting of a platoon warily approaching an isolated hooch, an intricate pencil sketch of a pointman with a M16 rifle over his shoulder and an M79 grenade launcher at the ready, or a photo-like rendering of a heavily-laden CH-46 helicopter about to lift off, each of the 45 paintings on display was evocative to those who had seen the real thing in combat.

Another popular attraction at YPG's

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Teri Womack gets a "hands-on" opportunity with equipment used to detect buried landmines.

PHOTO BY YOLIE CANALES



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Officer Paul Reeder
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SPIRIT

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exhibit was a display of mock land mines and handheld mine-detectors tested at the proving ground to counter this significant threat found by Soldiers in Afghanistan, one of the most heavily mined nations in the world. Kids of all ages also liked a helmet collection that spanned from one used by Soldiers in trenches during World War I to the modern day. Photo displays of current YPG test activities were prominently visible, and large audiences enjoyed presentations by YPG Public Affairs Officer Chuck Wullenjohn and Heritage Center Director Bill Heidner.

Though the paintings will be removed from the Yuma Art Center in mid-February, Heidner says some of them will be installed in the recently-opened Vietnam gallery at YPG's Heritage Center, which is open to the public Tuesday through Friday from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.



PHOTOS BY CHUCK WULLENJOHN

YPG Commander Col. Reed Young welcomes the attendees to the 2014 Spirit of Yuma Festival as newly elected Yuma Mayor Douglas Nicholls listens. Held to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the Vietnam War, YPG's exhibit included over 40 works of art created by Soldiers during the Vietnam War, and much more. The paintings will remain on display in the Yuma Art Center for public viewing for six weeks. There is no charge for visiting the art center.



At the Spirit of Yuma festival conducted this past weekend in downtown Yuma, Test Engineer Jesus Estrada (right) explains the operation of equipment used to detect buried landmines.

THE OUTPOST

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Memory of Test Officer Paul Reeder lives on today

By Bill Heidner,
YPG Heritage Center Director

On April 24, 1992, Yuma Proving Ground named its newly constructed air delivery complex for Paul Reeder, an honor that would be prohibited for living persons today.

Reeder was noted for his quick wit and sense of humor, as well as his organizational skills. He was never without his trusty notebook, always paying attention and organizing the information for future use. Perhaps it was his organizational skills which suited him so well at becoming the project manager for establishing the new complex. Perhaps it was his versatility and experience at conducting test and evaluation activities that suited him to the task.

But above all, it was Reeder's vast experience in the parachute maintenance field that qualified him the most. As a 17-year-old enlistee in 1947, he volunteered for airborne training, spending three years in the airborne infantry before transferring to the field that would serve him as he served in it for the rest of his life.

Reeder reenlisted in order to come to Yuma in 1961. Already a master sergeant, he brought with him a tremendous amount of rigging and parachute maintenance experience. He had established new policies and procedures at Fort Campbell and established a similar facility in France to support American airborne units. Somewhere during all of that was a little atomic test in Nevada which he characterized as "three months of work and one day of test".

In Yuma he reunited with some of

Standing tall today on the YPG skyline at Laguna Army Airfield, is the Paul Reeder Complex. During a recent visit to the complex named after their father his two sons (wearing baseball caps) and daughter (far right), granddaughters and family friend toured the facility and were so proud of what the building meant to their father.

(LOANED PHOTO)

his old airborne buddies, especially Sgt. 1st Class B.J. Williamson who had been at Yuma since 1958 as a pioneering member of the team that developed military freefall. Within the year, Reeder was promoted to warrant officer and made project officer. Air delivery capabilities would quickly increase as the C-130 cargo aircraft became operational. With load limits improving from 20,000 lbs to 50,000 lbs, Reeder noted that he "could see the workload change drastically in a short period of time." Increased workloads made aircraft shortages even more problematic, as did a lack of ground facilities.

In the early days of Yuma Proving Ground, tin-covered frame buildings were the rule. There was no facility capable of doing the rigging, so all loads were rigged in "field-like environments." Truck-mounted cranes and forklifts were invaluable tools.

Of particular interest to the Army was the qualification of munitions



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PHOTOS BY YOLIE CANALES

Michelle Thomas, guest speaker, addresses attendees at the MLK breakfast observance. Below, the Border Patrol Color Guard does the honors of posting the colors at the celebration.

Observing Dr. Martin Luther King's Jr. holiday

'If it's worth learning – it's worth celebrating'

By Yolie Canales

Throughout the United States, many communities and government agencies observed Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. holiday with a variety of events and activities on Monday, January 20th.

At Yuma Proving Ground, King's observance was held on Thursday, January 9th, with a breakfast, attended by members of the workforce. The breakfast was sponsored by the Equal Employment Office of YPG and featured guest speaker Michelle Thomas, Student Support Services Program Director at Arizona Western College where she has been employed since 1991.

A native of Arizona, Thomas said her purpose was to, "inform, inspire, and ignite interest." She discussed how Congressman John Conyers of Michigan introduced a bill in Congress to create an MLK holiday four days after King was murdered, and how it took 15 years of struggle before the holiday was finally enacted. "Thus, we should never give up," she said.

"We must remember that the commitment and dedication others see in us is truly catching," said Thomas. "The power of one is the impact we have on others. If it is worth learning, it is worth celebrating. Celebration provides

us the inspiration to continue our course to higher heights."

Thomas received her Bachelor's of General Studies with a minor in sociology and a Masters Degree in education with an emphasis in human relations at Northern Arizona University in Yuma. She currently is pursuing a doctorate of educational leadership at the University of Phoenix School of Advanced Studies.

The success of Martin Luther King's non-violent movement against segregation and injustice in the American south owes much to his visionary and inspirational eloquence. The following are excerpts from King's most popular speeches and writings.

Letter from Birmingham Jail — April 16, 1963

While jailed for leading anti-segregation protests in Birmingham, Ala., King wrote this letter arguing that individuals have the moral duty to disobey unjust laws.

We know through painful experience that freedom is never voluntarily given by the oppressor; it must be demanded by the oppressed. Frankly, I have never yet engaged in a direct action movement that was "well timed," according to the timetable of those who have not suffered unduly from

the disease of segregation. For years now I have heard the word "wait!" It rings in the ear of every Negro with a piercing familiarity. This "wait" has almost always meant "never." We must come to see with the distinguished jurist of yesterday that "justice too long delayed is justice denied."

March on Washington for Jobs and Freedom — August 28, 1963

The March on Washington took place in Washington, D.C., and was attended by 250,000 people. King's speech at the march remains one of the most famous speeches in American history. King started with prepared remarks but then departed from his script, shifting into the "I have a dream" theme he'd used on prior occasions, speaking of an America where his children "will not be judged by the color of their skin but by the content of their character." He followed this with an exhortation to "let freedom ring" across the nation, and concluded with:

I have a dream that one day this nation will rise up and live out the true meaning of its creed: "We hold these truths to be self-evident: that all men are created equal." I have a dream that one day on the red hills of Georgia the sons of former slaves and the sons of former slave



owners will be able to sit down together at a table of brotherhood. I have a dream that one day even the state of Mississippi, a desert state, sweltering with the heat of injustice and oppression, will be transformed into an oasis of freedom and justice. I have a dream that my four children will one day live in a nation where they will not be judged by the color of their skin but by the content of their character. I have a dream today.

I've Been to the Mountaintop — April 3, 1968

On the eve of a protest march for striking garbage workers in Memphis, Tenn., King gave this darkly prescient speech. The next day he was assassinated.

I don't know what will happen now. We have some difficult days ahead. But it doesn't matter with me now, because I've been to the mountain top. And I don't mind. Like anybody, I would like to live a long life. Longevity has its place. But I'm not concerned about that now. I just want to do God's will. And He's allowed me to go up to the mountain. And I've looked over. And I've seen the promised land. I may not get there with you. But I want you to know, tonight, that we, as a people, will get to the promised land. And I'm happy. I'm not worried about anything. I'm not fearing any man. Mine eyes have seen the glory of the coming of the Lord.

FY14 – 1ST QUARTER ICE CUSTOMER SERVICE ROLL CALL

Congratulations to the following personnel who are recognized for their great customer service at Yuma Proving Ground. YPG customers were so impressed with their service, they submitted ICE comments to tell us what a terrific job they did. If you would like to comment on our Service Providers go to <http://ice.disa.mil>

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<i>Bellman, Richard</i>	<i>Fijalkowski, Dennis</i>	<i>Moreno, Zeke</i>
<i>Bernard, Michael</i>	<i>Graef, Larry</i>	<i>Ornelas, Mike</i>
<i>Cather, William</i>	<i>Harris, Kilipaki</i>	<i>Perkins, Amanda</i>
<i>Cave, Deidric</i>	<i>Jacobsen, Cameron</i>	<i>Ramirez, Gilbert</i>
<i>Cohwell, Iuliana</i>	<i>Lalonde, Sandy</i>	<i>Saez, Juanita</i>
<i>Cook, Johnnie</i>	<i>Lucero, Brian</i>	<i>Snyder, James</i>
<i>Cowperthwaite, Carol</i>	<i>Martin, Jason</i>	<i>Williams, Anthony</i>

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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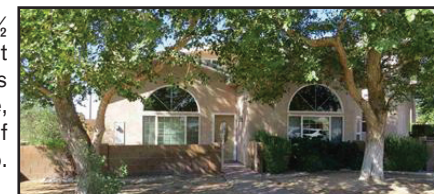


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➤ **MESA DEL SOL** – 3 Bedroom – 2 ½ Bath townhome located on corner lot with open floor plan and vaulted ceilings in living room area. Includes a fireplace, utility space with washer & dryer, lots of storage, 2-car garage and front gated patio. \$180,000



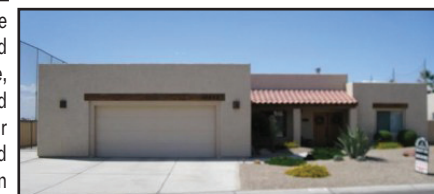
◀ **MESA DEL SOL**—3 Bedroom—2 Bath Santa-fe style home located in a cul-de-sac surrounded by other nice homes. Living room area includes built-in entertainment center, and kitchen comes with an island and breakfast bar. Features a covered patio and sparkling pool which look out to the Mesa Del Sol golf course. \$219,900

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New Year, new innovations for

By Mark Schauer

Come rain or shine, YPG's meteorology team stands ready to give YPG's test community advanced weather forecasts needed to successfully evaluate equipment in a natural laboratory.

The extensive variety of test activities at the proving ground taking place across its vast ranges means met team members have to collect both ordinary and esoteric weather-related information that can vary significantly across the facility. This data is necessary not only for the success of tests, but for the safety of personnel evaluating items in rugged and isolated locations. One such threat the met team guards against is that of desert washes becoming impassable flood zones during summer monsoons, and is about to greatly increase its ability to warn personnel in advance of such emergencies.

"We're building six stations that will be deployed in washes throughout YPG," said Nick McColl, chief meteorologist. "These stations will have pressure transducers buried beneath the soil. When the wash activates, the water going over the transducer will trip the sensor and the sensor will report back to us the depth of the water."

McColl says a successful deployment of the system will likely result in the emplacement of additional stations in the future. This information will also be available to YPG personnel on YPG's intranet page, he adds. Meanwhile, the team is also adapting to collecting the kind of data ever-more sophisticated testing demands.

"More and more tests want soil moisture measurements," said McColl. "We've picked up some additional sensors and may start upgrading our stations to measure soil moisture in addition to soil



Contractor Daniel Meza fills a standard weather balloon with helium. He is looking at a display next to the cable reel that has the readout of the flow meter. The flow meter indicates how much helium is placed in each balloon.

temperature."

Precise knowledge of wind speeds and other atmospheric conditions at altitudes high above test ranges is critical knowledge for YPG's aviation and air delivery testers, and the met team acquires this data by lofting electronic devices called radiosondes attached to helium-filled weather

balloons multiple times per day.

Two summers ago, the met team's ability to do this was threatened by a worldwide helium shortage, which prompted the team to reduce both the number of balloons per day and the amount of helium in each balloon to the absolute minimum possible to lift it into the atmosphere. The team also

switched the radiosondes' batteries to more-lightweight lithium batteries, which reduced helium consumption by about 20 percent. Though the shortage has abated for the time being, experts predict further shortages of the finite resource in the future, a potentiality the met team is already considering.

YPG Met Team

“We’ve returned to using our normal volume of helium in each weather balloon, but we did pick up some additional tanks to beef up our supply and shield us a bit from any future disruptions,” said McColl. “We always have the possibility of switching to hydrogen in the back of our minds, but there are definite safety concerns with that. It is better not to go down that route, but if helium becomes scarcer and more expensive in the long term, we may be forced to.”

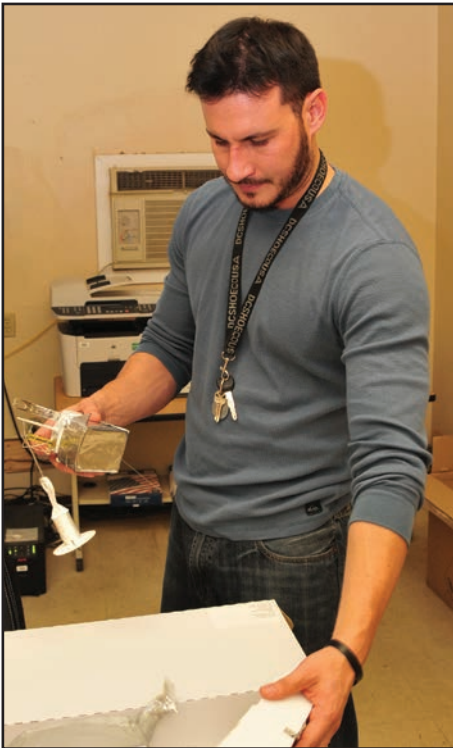
The team recently completed a significant upgrade to its monthly climate reports, comprehensive compilations of a wide variety of meteorological data that has become more and more sophisticated.

“We’ve been doing climate reports here for decades,” said Gabe Langbauer, meteorologist. “The most recent iteration had been made in the early 1990s, so I added new variables that might be interesting to users.”

These variables include tallies of how many days above 100 or 110 degrees the proving ground has in a given year, or how many days of thunderstorms. This improved data is used by a variety of organizations on post.

“The energy office uses it to look at how much we should be paying for air conditioning and heating based on the monthly data,” said Langbauer. “Some test officers use it to predict monthly averages in making test plans.”

The met team’s support of YPG testing is about to expand beyond the boundaries of the proving ground, too. Members are looking forward to supporting a NASA parachute test when it moves from YPG’s drop zones to an isolated part of the Pacific Ocean later this year, releasing weather balloons from aboard a ship to gather the same meticulous data NASA testers have come to expect during their tests at the proving ground.



Daniel Meza has just unwrapped a Radiosonde. These devices are attached to the end of the weather balloon and transmits data back to the team. The Met Team launches over 4,000 Radiosondes per year at YPG, more than any other ATEC range.



Nickolas McColl (above) verifies the operation of a visibility sensor. This sensor measures how much “stuff” is in the atmosphere and calculates how far one can see. Dust, rain, and fog can reduce visibility, but, normally, YPG experiences nothing but clear skies. Daniel Meza attaches a standard weather balloon to the nozzle of the helium fill station. This is where the balloon is filled just before it is launched with a radiosonde attached to it. The devices measure temperature, humidity, pressure (from which height is calculated), and winds (calculated from GPS data received from the device).

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— CHAPLAIN'S CORNER —

Don't Give Up Hope

By Chaplain (Maj.) Douglas Thomison

Greetings from the Yuma Proving Ground Chapel. Beginning at the United States Army Battalion level all the way to the Chief of Staff of the Army, the Army Chaplain Corps has Unit Ministry Teams (UMT) yoked with units/commands. Here at YPG: Chaplain (Maj.) Douglas Thomison, Staff Sgt. Duana Scott and Spec. Michael Rau make up our team. The UMT comes together in providing ministry to those in our area of responsibility. Team member Spec. Rau, has written the piece below for you, our community.

In just a short time into the new year, perhaps some of us are giving up hope. Not only on our 'New Year's Resolutions' but on other aspects of our lives as well. Maybe our expectation is that things will get better, whether or not we take steps toward self-betterment. However, sooner or later, we come to realize that things do not always go as planned. Either something unexpected interrupts us in our attempt to become better or we discover the 'right direction' was actually the wrong one.

We all know that life has its ups and downs, some more significant

than others, but having this knowledge, we can be prepared, not to set our expectations so high. The expectation that nothing will ever go wrong is not optimistic, but unrealistic. However, we must not give up hope. Our daily expectation should be simple: to become a better person. We can do this by setting goals for ourselves spiritually, physically, and mentally.

I once read a fortune cookie that had a fitting piece of advice. It said 'Aspire to be great – then help others.' This can be a general goal for all of us. In each area of our lives, we should aspire to achieve greatness. As we make steps towards each goal, we should help others to do the same.

Focusing on our spiritual lives is a great place to start. God reminds us in Jeremiah 29:11-13, "For I know the plans I have for you," declares the LORD, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future. Then you will call on me and come and pray to me, and I will listen to you. You will seek me and find me when you seek me with all your heart."

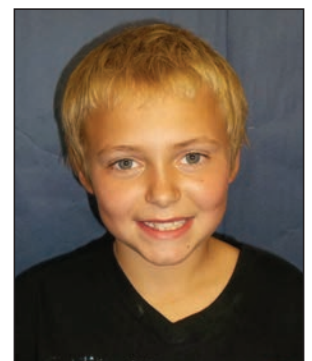
I want to thank SPC Michael Rau for his willingness to reach out to our community by submitting this piece. Have a blessed day!

January Go-Getters



Madison Munford

Congratulations to Madison Munford and Tyler Whitmore from Mrs. Alonzo's 4th and 5th grade class for being selected Price Elementary School "Go-Getters" for the month of January.



Tyler Whitmore

Safety Award presented to 14 YPG employees




During the Commander’s Safety Award ceremony last month, 14 members of the YPG workforce were presented with Commander’s Safety Certificates. Not in this order, they are: Anthony Lucero was recognized for reporting a safety hazard on Middle Mountain Road, while performing his work. Recognizing road hazards and reporting them could prevent a major accident if a truck hauling a heavy load was not able to come to a quick stop; John Barczynski, was recognized for his safety accomplishments as a Combat and Automotive Systems Safety Engineer from February through October 2013. His insight of the test range and safety procedures, combined with imparting his knowledge and approach to safety to his peers has played a critical role in maintaining the safety of his co-workers and other range personnel; William Howard was recognized not for one safety event or situation but a career in which he has placed safety as paramount in all aspects



of his profession. He has always encouraged his colleagues to look out for each other, assure all operations were conducted safely, and that everyone went home at night without injury. Lastly, 11 Network Enterprise Center employees were presented certificates for a “safety first attitude.” The Range Communications and Networking Division had ZERO injuries for FY 13 while supporting over 881 airdrops and 2,096 firing programs. Duties performed were inherently hazardous and opportunity for mishap was great, while visiting almost every inch of YPG in the execution of these duties. Whether, they were digging trenches, stringing communication wire, climbing towers or setting up gun positions, SAFETY was first always. (PHOTOS BY PAO STAFF)









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REEDER

FROM PAGE 3

for air drop, which became an area of special expertise for Reeder, not only developing the rigging and air-drop procedures for multiple munition items, but test and qualification standards as well. Due to the hazardous nature of the cargo, ammunition had to be rigged well away from anything else. Throughout these early years, the rigging of munitions for air delivery tests was performed outdoors. Some days the conditions were so bad that loads could not be rigged, which first got Reeder involved with developing plans for better facilities.

Unfortunately, Reeder was forced to leave his beloved airborne status due to an injury incurred while sky-diving. Because of this, his parachute jumping days ended. In 1975, he came to Yuma to stay as a civilian working in the air delivery field.

He quickly realized that the subject of getting a new air delivery facility built was a definite subject of interest. Jim Gillaspie, who had hired Reeder at YPG, had made up the plans for

a new state-of-the art air delivery facility that would encompass all areas required. When Gillaspie moved on to other responsibilities, he needed someone who would see the project through the construction process – a person with extraordinary organizational skills. He needed a lifetime airborne Soldier, a rigger and a tester. He needed a man like Paul Reeder.

While he had many accomplishments under his belt, including nearly 50 test programs, Reeder's biggest accomplishment stands tall today on the YPG skyline at Laguna Army Airfield. There may be no other air delivery facility in the world quite like it.

The building nearing completion about the same time Reeder was planning to retire from YPG. When the moment came to decide who it should be named after, the debate was brief and the consensus nearly unanimous. The honor belonged to Paul Reeder, airborne Soldier and parachute rigger extraordinaire.

Today, Army regulations prohibit naming a building of this type for a living employee. However, Reeder's name today lives on.

2013 Tax Season services offered at YPG's JAG Office

The Command Judge Advocate Office will be preparing taxes under the military Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) Program once again. The YPG Installation Tax Program is a FREE service as part of the Army Legal Assistance Program.

Beverly Williams, legal assistant from the YPG Judge Advocate Office will be assisting with your tax preparation this year!

The 2013 Tax Season is off to a slow start due to the October furlough. The IRS has posted the opening of the 2013 tax season for January 31st. Tax season will open on YPG beginning January 21st and will ONLY receive packets. Tax packets are available at the JAG Office, Bldg. 452. Preparation of your returns will not be able to begin until IRS gives us the green light on January 31st or thereafter.

WHO IS ELIGIBLE? Active duty, retired military, 100 percent disabled veteran (with ID card), a family member/dependent, or a civilian on orders for deployment or transfer to overseas, are eligible to receive free income tax preparation and electronic filing.

TAX PACKETS: May be picked up at the JAG Office, Bldg. 452.

DROP OFF SERVICE: Will continue again this year. Be sure your packets are complete or they will be returned to you. Packets will be date stamped as they are received "first come, first serve".

APPOINTMENTS: You will be contacted to schedule an appointment for final review and signing. Please provide a good telephone number on your forms.

POWER OF ATTORNEY:

Please provide our office with an original General and/or Special POA in the event your spouse is unable to sign their portion of the tax return. If you need a Power of Attorney, please contact the JAG office for an appointment at 328-2608.

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EDUCATION CREDIT

CHANGES: The education credits have decreased for tax year 2013. The American Opportunity Credit is limited to 40 percent of the maximum \$2,500 giving you a return of \$1,000 (if maximum of \$2,500 was spent) based on your income. In previous years, you received 100 percent for the first \$2,000 and 25 percent for the second \$2,000, giving you a return of \$2,500 (if maximum of \$4,000 was spent) in previous years. An informational sheet is attached for your convenience:

TAX CENTER E-MAIL: An e-mail address has been established to correspond with you at: usarmy.ypg.hqda-otjag.mbx.tax-center-ypg@mail.mil Please utilize the tax center e-mail with questions you may have. We are providing a service during tax season, however, we are also performing our normal daily duties as well. There are questions that require research and will take some time. This will enable us to respond to your questions in an efficient manner.

**Next Outpost deadline is noon
January 30th**

Sexual Assault Hotline: 920-3104 or 328-3224

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