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## Holocaust survivors describe past horrors

#### By Mark Schauer

Discriminatory laws. Forced labor camps. Execution chambers that killed with deadly gas.

These were the escalating tools of terror the Nazi regime of Adolf Hitler used in a pathological bid to eliminate Jews and others deemed 'inferior' from the face of the Earth.

At the height of Hitler's 12 deprayed years in power, more than six million people, representing one-third of the Jewish people in the world and two-thirds of those in Europe, were systematically murdered in concentration camps that spread across the continent. Particularly heinous was the fact that these atrocities claimed the lives of over 1.5 million innocent children.

A fortunate few made it through, however, and survivors Annique Dverin and Pauline Brull recently spent a day at YPG's Heritage Center discussing their experiences as children in concentration camps during the Holocaust. They spoke individually in the morning and led a panel discussion about the Holocaust and related topics with audience members in a lengthy afternoon session.



From left, Dr. Gail Wallen, director of the military program for Holocaust Survivors of Southern Arizona, and Holocaust survivors Annique Dverin and Pauline Brull talk with appreciative YPG personnel during a panel discussion at the proving ground's Heritage Center.

The frank talk about religion, minority status, race, and remembrance had particular resonance being held at YPG, the last active Army installation within the famed Desert Maneuver Area in which 20 Army divisions underwent harsh training during World War II in preparation for combat. Many of the divisions landed at Normandy in June 1944 and fought their way across Nazioccupied Europe, liberating 10 concentration camps prior to their final defeat of the Third Reich.

workforce who, throughout the day, were keenly aware of the special opportunity the visit represented.

"The window of opportunity to interface with people who were actually there is quickly closing," said Gordon Wiborg, plans and operations chief for the proving ground's Directorate of Plans, Training, Mobilization and Security and the son of a World War II combat veteran. "It's important for us to take the opportunity or we're going to miss it, and with that the firsthand wisdom, knowledge, and experience

these people have. After that it is just reading it in a history book, and that's very, very different."

In recollections presented during the afternoon discussion, Brull said many decades passed before survivors like her were able to talk about their trauma.

"For years, survivors were not telling their stories, until their children, who were by then grown up, started demanding from their parents to hear what had happened," she said. "Why were there no grandparents? Why were there no family photos? People were afraid because it opens up a flood of emotions: But once you're past the first phase, it gets less difficult to talk about."

Nonetheless, even after nearly seven decades the memories are ever-present.

"If I have a fever or have a tough day, it's hard to sleep because thoughts keep running through my mind," said Dverin.

During the lengthy conversation with audience members, all of the panelists agreed that Soldiers afflicted by Post Traumatic Stress Disorder from their own combat experiences could find solace and support talking to Holocaust survivors.

"I think there would be great merit in wounded warriors and Holocaust survivors sitting down together, because in terms of PTSD the wounded warriors could see that there is hope," said Dr. Gail Wallen, director of the Military Program for the Holocaust Survivors of Southern Arizona. "You can go on."

Further, Holocaust survivors would likewise gain comfort in the dialogue.

"Preventing it from happening again is part of telling the story," said Brull. "I think it is the survival instinct

Many members of the YPG

Yuma community rallies around supporting the military / Page 4



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## YPG mission highlighted at Yuma County Fair

By Public Affairs Staff

The annual Yuma County Fair brings out over 165,000 people each year, from all walks of life and age groups, to the Yuma County Fairgrounds for six days of fun, education and enjoyment.

During the last five years, Yuma Proving Ground has participated in the event by showcasing the installation's storied history with a large photographic exhibit of employees

conducting a wide variety of test projects that take place throughout the year at the proving ground. This year, YPG's Air Combat Directorate contributed an actual Silver Fox unmanned aircraft to the

display that was the focus of a number of questions from people who stopped by.

Staffed and coordinated by YPG Public Affairs Office, the Heritage Center and a volunteer from the Environmental Sciences Division, the booth included a table display of vintage military memorabilia as well as copies of the "Outpost" newspaper and informational brochures.



A visitor takes an up close look at the Silver Fox unmanned aircraft on display. The aircraft generated a huge volume of questions from the public.



K.D. Tyree, archeologist, enjoys interacting with visitors stopping by the YPG exhibit.



Yolie Canales, public affairs specialist, answered dozens of questions during her time at the fair, from explaining the proving ground's mission to describing career opportunities.



Chuck Wullenjohn and Mark Schauer, are ready for the flood of visitors showing up on opening day, when admission tickets are discounted. (Photo By Mark Schauer)

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## Parade brings parents, grandparents and workforce out marching, celebrating!



YPG Commander Col. Randy Murray (left center) and Gordon Rogers (right), Garrison, manager, prepare to march with the children from the Child Development Center in observance of Month of the Military Child.

#### Photos and story by **Yolie Canales**

YPG celebrated the "Month of the Military Child" with a gala, colorful parade Thursday April 2nd featuring children from the proving ground's child care center. It's an always anticipated

event because it brings about a great many smiles -- as well as feelings of pride in numerous watching parents and grandparents!

Col. Randy Murray, YPG commander, Gordon Rogers, Garrison manager, Chaplain (Maj.) Douglas Thomison and

other YPG officials, marched alongside 40 children, who either walked, rode in strollers or were carried by their parents through a few blocks in the Howard Cantonment Area waving red, white and blue flags, pom-poms, streamers and singing patriotic songs as



Just to keep things on the safe side, leading off the parade is good of McGruff.



#### Parents, grandparents and CDC staff take off on the parade route waving flags and pompoms, etc.

they observed the event.

By the time the children up in the air with a grin made their rounds and headed back to the center, they were pretty worn out. "My son, Jack, was pretty tired and broke a sweat by the time we arrived at CDC. However, he had a

ball as he waved his hands from ear to ear, and to see this makes me happy," said Amanda Quintero. "I think every program that the CDC puts together for the children are the best and they only get better!"

## **THEOUTPOST**

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Yuma rallies around supporting the military

By Chuck Wullenjohn

It is estimated that about one percent of Americans serve in uniform at any one time, making their protective services to the nation of inestimable value. Many communities throughout the country formed military support organizations in past decades to honor those who serve and defend individual bases from encroachment and other issues with potential negative impacts.

As officials at both Yuma military installations have publically stated many times, Yuma is outstanding when it comes to supporting military activities. The partnership that exists between community officials and the military is strong, pro-active and warm.

A local organization being formed is specifically geared toward supporting and advocating for the two local military installations on a permanent basis. Called the "Yuma 50," the organization will be a positive, permanent Yuma community voice to support local military interests. Written bylaws are being prepared now, as is appropriate registration with government agencies.



Pat Franklin (left), explains Air Combat Directorate activities to members of the Southwest Arizona Defense Association during their recent two day visit to Yuma. (Photo by Chuck Wullenjohn)

Yuma 50 chairperson Ken Rosevear, who recently retired from the Yuma County Chamber of Commerce after 16 years, says when threats arise to local bases, the organization will go into action. "We will be able to muster a total communication package showing the community's position," he said. "Email messages, phone calls and letters will result."

Rosevear feels strongly about the military. "The mission of Yuma's two bases is absolutely necessary to the defense of our nation," he said. "We can't let any organization or person encroach on that mission. Yuma is a premier military testing and training location."

Though the Yuma 50 will focus its attention on protecting the two Yuma bases, their interests will extend throughout Southern Arizona. The Southern Arizona Defense Alliance is helping the Yuma 50 to form and will act as an umbrella organization to advocate for all the military installations in that area, such as Fort Huachuca, and Davis-Monthan and Luke Air Force Bases.

Bruce Dusenberry, current president of the alliance, has visited Yuma several times with others to help with the formation of the Yuma 50. Recently, a group of alliance officials came to Yuma to visit both local installations, as well as meet with board members of the Yuma 50.

"Our intention is to encourage support for the Yuma 50 and become partners," said Dusenberry. "We know that 90 percent of Yuma County residents strongly support the military and there is a long history of that support." He intends for the alliance to support

Yuma any way it is able, from public affairs efforts to advocacy in Washington, D.C.

He points out that Southern Arizona offers numerous advantages to the military and, actually, is unique in the world. "The land, airspace, weather, and vast ranges offer tremendous opportunities," he said. "All the attributes come together into a whole that can be found nowhere else." He also says Arizona ranks in the top ten among all states for Department of Defense spending.

Rosevear says Yuma community-members can look forward to a major kick-off celebration in coming months for the Yuma 50, and membership will be encouraged for individuals, businesses and other organizations. A web site and other contact tools are also in the works.

"Everyone on the Yuma 50 board today is a volunteer, and forming an organization takes time," he said. "But things are going well and I know our efforts will be positive for the military and the community."



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## **Ensuring the reliability of guided munitions**

By Mark Schauer

Whenever the United States military fires an artillery round, the reliability of that round was meticulously proven at U.S. Army Yuma Proving Ground long before making it into the hands of Soldiers.

For decades, YPG has been at the forefront of artillery test and evaluation, and the most impressive achievement in recent years has been the development and fielding of the Excalibur precision-guided 155mm projectile.

At long ranges, a conventional artillery round can land more than 250 meters away from a target, a potentially fatal outcome for both Soldiers and civilians. The push for more accurate artillery has resulted in the fully guided Excalibur round, accurate to approximately two meters of a target. This round underwent extensive testing at U.S. Army YPG during the last decade, and continues to return for lot acceptance testing that ensures reliability.

"Each time we produce a large quantity of ammunition, we perform a lot acceptance test at YPG to ensure the service member gets what we advertise," said Maj. Harlan McKinney, assistant product manager. "The capability to reliably deliver munitions within two meters at very long distances doesn't exist in many other systems."

Excalibur's guidance capability makes lot acceptance tests more complex than those of conventional artillery rounds. To put the precision round through



At long ranges, a conventional artillery round can land more than 250 meters away from a target, but the fully-guided Excalibur round is accurate to within approximately two meters of a target. Here, testers enter an Excalibur round's coordinates prior to a test fire. (Photos by Mark Schauer)

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### RELIABILITY

its paces in as realistic a scenario as possible, YPG testers erect targets of various sizes and types. For example, in a recent test, Excalibur rounds targeted scrapped vehicle hulls one day, and a simulated parking lot constructed of flat wooden blocks the next.

Whatever the target happens to be, video surveillance captures the round's explosive impact as testers watch from trailers at the gun position. High speed cameras capture hundreds of frames of the projectile in flight immediately after being fired. As it flies toward its target, it is tracked the entire way using optical tracking and telemetry systems. As each round is in flight, workers back at the howitzer take readings from pressure gauges inside the gun barrel.

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 munitions and weapons mission. This fact, combined with the proving ground's extensive institutional knowledge of the Excalibur round makes it an ideal test location.

"YPG has a long history with the program," said McKinney. "The people here do a really good job supporting the tests and understanding requirements. There is a serious comfort level in what they do."





TOP RIGHT: YPG employee Michael Daniel uses a level to measure elevation prior to a lot acceptance test fire. YPG extensively tested the Excalibur projectile extensively throughout its development.

BOTTOM RIGHT: YPG weapons operators prepare a propelling charge prior to a test fire. Lot acceptance testing, where samples of munitions are fired in real-world conditions to ensure reliability and effectiveness, is an important part of YPG's munitions and weapons mission.





### CHAPLAIN'S CORNER

## PLAY BALL!

#### By Chaplain (Maj.) Douglas Thomiso

Good day Yuma Proving Ground. Well, after several weeks of spring training (much of it took place here in Arizona), the regular Major League Baseball season has begun.

Thus, let the games begin! If you are a fan of baseball or even if you are not, you may still appreciate the work, dedication, passion and heart that goes into striving to succeed in baseball. A new day, week or season brings about possibilities.

The former Los Angeles Dodger Manager Tommy Lasorda once said, "The difference between the impossible and the possible lies in a person's determination." I truly like thinking about what is possible in life, and the start of a "new season" opens the door for possibilities.

The Holy Bible illustrates that we often limit ourselves and what is possible. The Bible says, "And Jesus said to him, "'If You can?' All things are possible to him who believes."

(Mark 9:23) A person's belief system demonstrates how they can move from what's impossible to what is possible. Inspiration, resolve and faith are important matters to achieve ones goals in life.

Still thinking of baseball and famous quotes, Hall of Famer Babe Ruth once said, "Never allow the fear of striking out keep you from playing the game." So as "spring has sprung" and a new season is at hand, are you starting this portion of the calendar year living with the "cup half full or half empty?" You cannot change what took place yesterday, but you can begin today as a day that has never been lived before. Remember, all things are possible! Have a blessed day YPG, and let's play ball!







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## Hula-hoop yourself to a healthier body



Amanda Quintero and Beth Lumsden demonstrate hula-hopping during their 30-minute workout (Photo by Mark Schauer)

#### By Yolie Canales

The Army's Ready and Resilient Campaign integrates and synchronizes a wide variety of efforts that improve the readiness and resilience of the Total Army - Soldiers, Civilians and Families.

Physical exercise is an important part of the campaign and it offers numerous benefits, but many think of personal exercise as nothing more than a necessary chore. The following is a great example of how one can make exercising fun.

How many out there have not touched a hula-hoop since childhood? How many have never even tried hula-hooping because of the possibility of embarrassment or not being able to keep the hoop above the hips?

If this describes you, you're one of many. Don't despair; you can still do it as an adult, right here at YPG. Yes, right here.

Beth Lumsden and her coworker, Amanda Quintero, both environmental specialists for North Wind Resource Consulting, have begun implementing 'hoop dance' exercising during their half hour lunch break. They are looking for interested individuals who want to try the workout while having fun at the same time. "You'd be surprised at the workout one gets from just 30 minutes of hula-hooping," said Lumsden, who has been practicing since 2009. "The hula-hoop is an extremely simple yet effective piece of workout equipment that can tone your thighs, abs, glutes, and arms. And it's just as much fun as when you were a child. But don't despair, practice makes perfect."

Lumsden says first timers can start with the basic moves, such as around the waist, until they feel comfortable. After one feels ready they can step up to more advanced ones, mixing and matching tricks which she teaches along the way. Do any combination of moves for 30 minutes (you'll burn 200 to 300 calories per workout) three times a week for four weeks and you'll lose three to six inches all over your body. Yep, belly included!

Lumsden, who has built her own adult-sized hoops from irrigation tubing, says the heavier the hoop, the better the workout; some like to add sand or water inside the tubing for added weight.

"When I was visiting back home in Minnesota, I ran across a friend who taught me how to make the hoops," she said. "Once I got it down, I began hula-hooping in Yuma with the help of online tutorials and became addicted." She believes anyone else can have

fun, too.

"Beth is a great instructor," said Quintero. "It took only one lesson for me to learn the basics. I found the movements to be very natural and fluid, and almost relaxing. We like to stay active during our lunch break by running the Legacy Trail or going to the gym, and now we've added hooping to our routine. It's nice to change things up and hooping is a fun way to do that."

Lumsden said that not only does your body benefit, hooping also improves your balance and posture, increases coordination and improves flexibility, not to mention builds up your self esteem. It's more like playing, than it is a set workout. Hooping is good for your entire body, good for the soul and puts a lasting smile on your face.

Hooping has a spiritual side, also. As a perfect circle, the hoop is the ancient symbol for gnosis (knowledge with wisdom). It is the symbol of infinitude, the snake that eats its own tale, the cycle of death and rebirth, and the change within the whole. The circle has long been used for delineating sacred space.

If you ever catch them out hooping, feel free to join in for a lesson and some fun!

#### - VIEWPOINTS

By Mark Schauer

Whether in comic books or the Sunday funnies, comic characters left an indelible imprint on the childhoods of many. We asked members of the workforce about their favorite comic strip characters when they were kids.

#### **Master Sgt. Brain Davis,** Airborne Test Force NCOIC:

I didn't read comics that often, but when I did I think my favorite was Spider Man. I liked his powers and his alter ego, plus he could shoot webs from his wrists and climb walls. I still have a few old ones unopened in wrappers: when I was 16 or 17, I worked in a toy store and picked up one double pack with Spider Man and Wonder Woman. I have an old Superman comic in a wrapper put away, too.



#### Raquel Overstreet,

PC repair technician:

I liked Dennis the Menace in the Sunday comics, because he would always get in trouble and then somehow always get out of it. I liked all of the other characters in it, even Margaret. Unlike Dennis, I never wanted to get into trouble.





**Garnette Brunett-Dean,** 

Quality Control Officer:

I liked Archie, because you could relate to the characters. Back then you wanted to hurry and grow up so you could be a teenager. I liked Veronica-- she just seemed cool. Jughead was crazy, if you wanted someone to pull a stunt you looked him up.



#### **STEP IT OUT**

**YPG Fitness Challenge 2015** 



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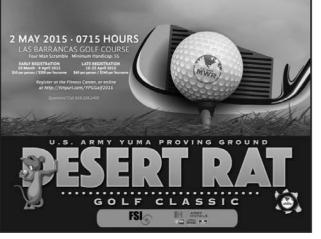
The team with the most steps and the individual with the most steps will be announced as winners at the end and awarded with a prize.

#### Rules:

- Participants will report daily totals at the end of each week to their team leaders
- Team leaders will report team weekly total steps to MAJ Davis
- A team average will be established
- One team and one individual with the most steps will be rewarded for their achievement

POC for this event is MAJ Davis: leilani.r.davis.mil@mail.mil (x2666)

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