

# THE OUTPOST

U.S. Army Yuma Proving Ground, Yuma, Arizona 85365

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## New commander takes lead of ATEC's mission



**Gen. Daniel B. Allyn, Army vice chief of staff (right), passes the Army Test and Evaluation Command flag to ATEC Commander, Maj. Gen. Daniel L. Karbler, during the change of command ceremony, June 15, at Aberdeen Proving Ground in Maryland. (Photo by Andricka Thomas)**

By Andricka Thomas

Maj. Gen. Peter D. Utley relinquished command of the U.S. Army Test and Evaluation Command (ATEC) to Maj. Gen. Daniel L. Karbler during a change of command ceremony on, June 15, at

Aberdeen Proving Ground.

Karbler took command over the Army's independent test and evaluation enterprise, which is responsible for the planning and execution of experiments, developmental and operational testing, and assessments on new and emerging

capabilities.

"This command [ATEC] is fundamental to the process of choosing the right warfighting systems and modifying them for the realities of combat and support to Soldiers," said Gen. Daniel B. Allyn, Army vice chief of staff and presiding officer for the ceremony. "ATEC ensures we [the Army] procure the best systems and helps us focus our resources both effectively and efficiently."

Karbler joins the ATEC team from his most recent assignment as the Joint Integration Director in the Army G-8, where he was no stranger to navigating through the fiscal challenges ATEC, and the Army, currently face. He understands the importance of keeping an Army ready, equipped and postured to meet the current and future needs of the Force.

The 35th Vice Chief of Staff of the Army referenced Gen. George Washington's inaugural address to the nation stating, "Being prepared for war was one of the most effective means to preserving peace."

"The Army Test and Evaluation Command is a fundamental contributor to our preparation for war," Allyn said. "Confidence in our tools of war, helps solidify the essential trust that empowers our warriors to fight with courage and tenacity, the trademark of the American Soldier."

ATEC's mission directly impacts

procurement and acquisition decisions as the command ensures Soldiers have effective, suitable and survivable equipment. With this in mind, as he starts his new assignment, Karbler described three mission areas on which he plans to focus.

"My message is simple; we will continue to rigorously and thoroughly test and evaluate new capabilities, whether they are emerging technologies or upgrades, that will allow us to extend the life of current systems," said Karbler. "We'll do so in operationally robust test environments while staying cognizant of the fiscal reality constraining all of us. And, we will ensure that all of ATEC's military and civilian professionals remain on the cutting-edge of professional development and education."

During his remarks, Karbler thanked the ATEC team for their supreme professionalism as they welcomed him and his family to the command and said he looks forward to working together.

Allyn commended Utley for his commitment to being a straight forward leader of character, something he says is an essential attribute in the test and evaluation business.

"In the Army we pride ourselves on building leaders of character, and ATEC exemplifies this commitment," Allyn said. "Testing in an international setting, leading to critical billion-dollar decisions, our independent testers have

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# Fireworks Safety Tips.

**Fireworks can be dangerous. Here are a few fireworks safety tips to follow this Fourth of July:**

- Children should never be allowed to ignite or play with fireworks.
- An adult should always be supervising firework activity.
- A garden hose or bucket of water should always be on hand in the event of a mishap or fire.
- No one should ever try to pick up or re-ignite a firework that did not ignite properly or fully the first time around.

**Fireworks should only be lit one at a time.**

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## ARMY VIEWPOINTS

By Mark Schauer

The Army recently celebrated its 240th birthday, giving particular emphasis to the generations of men and women in uniform who have selflessly served our nation. We asked YPG uniformed personnel why they joined the Army.



### **Lt. Col. Michael Allen, Chaplain**

For me, it's about bringing God to Soldiers and Soldiers to God. I have more freedom to minister in the Army. Where else would people expect me to be in their workplace? Here, I'm expected to be in the motor pool, at physical training, wherever people work at. I also joined to help take care of my family, and it is one of the better choices I've made.

### **Lt. Col. Kary Reed, Command Judge Advocate**

I joined because what they offered to be able to practice as a young attorney was fabulous. You were in the courtroom practically the first day you were in the JAG Corps, which in private practice wouldn't happen in less than five years because the partners take all the cases.

Another reason is that everybody's name is on their chest and I have no memory for names.



### **Pvt. Marilyn Secasiu, Chaplain's Assistant**

I joined for the experience and to be part of something bigger than myself. I thought it would be a good place to start college from, too.



# Employees recognized for superior service



**Recipients of the Achievement Medal for Civilian Service take a group photo as they display their award. (Photos by Yolie Canales)**

## By Yolie Canales

Yuma Proving Ground runs on people and is fortunate to have so many excellent ones. Most stay a long time and a large percentage have developed great work reputations.

Tremendous dedication and 130 years of expertise were recently recognized by Garrison Manager Gordon Rogers when he presented Length of Service Awards to a number of Garrison employees. In addition, he presented Achievement Medals for Civilian Service to the following Morale Welfare & Recreation (MWR) employees for outstanding performance: Tony Williams, Cactus Café Business Manager; Teresa Day, Coyote Lanes Business Manager; Tina Helzer, Coyote Lanes Assistant Business Manager; Robert Verdugo, Coyote Lanes lead cook and kitchen manager; Iulian Colwell, lead cook at the Cactus Café; Sonia May and Ricki Guyette of the Cactus Café. Another MWR employee recognized was Christa Irr of the Coyote Lanes.

Length of Service Awards recipients are as follows: Deborah Armbruster and Efren Huerta

for five years; Robert Verdugo and Mary Beebe Lutz, 10 years; Linda Gillis, Carolyn Lauzon, Sonia May, and Debra Mercado, 15 years; Gerald Ball, 25 years; Richard Bellman, 35 years; and Rodolfo Rodriguez, 40 years.

During the ceremony, Bill Heidner was presented with a Certificate of Appreciation by the Military Affairs Committee of the Yuma County Chamber of Commerce for his 2015 Military Appreciation Days support, in addition to being recognized as the Garrison Civilian of the Year for FY 2014. He was also awarded the Commanders Award for Civilian Service.

Selected as Civilian of the 1st Quarter for FY15 was Marie Siliezar from the Directorate of Emergency Services. She was also presented the Achievement Medal for Civilian Service.

Hernel Aitken was presented the Achievement Medal for Civilian Service by Lt. Col. James Deboer, Yuma Test Center (YTC) commander, for exceptional support of the YTC Army Records Information Management Systems (ARIMS) effort and his impressive customer service. Deboer said, "Aitken has performed over and



**Bill Heidner, curator at the YPG Heritage Center, was presented with the FY14 Civilian of the Year award.**

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# SERVICE

FROM PAGE 3

above the call of duty by providing guidance, support, and assistance to YTC personnel with the ARIMS.”

And last, but not least, six employees were welcomed to the Garrison team: Alfonzo Brown of DPTMs; John Lidington, Aaron Schmitt, Luis Lopez and Gary Grove of the Fire Department; Chaplain (Lt. Col.) Mike Allen; Judith Movilla, Erin Goslin and Joe Garcia of DPW; Carlos Generoso of RM; and Olan Wafer of MWR.

The following employees were awarded Certificates of



**Displaying Length of Service Awards, are nine of the 11 recipients.**

Achievement, but were not present at the ceremony: Jaimie Guyette, Jose River and Sara Enders, all of MWR.



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## Chaplain Corner

### In Case of Failure

By Chaplain (Lt. Col.) Michael Allen

Recently we remembered D-Day and the Normandy Beach Invasion. The sacrifices of the “Greatest Generation” during World War II should never be forgotten. I have seen numerous postings in Social Media regarding it and the Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen, and Marines who were part of that incredible day.

General Eisenhower is rightfully credited with the success of the plan. He was also ready to accept responsibility if it failed. Immediately below are words which he wrote to be used should D-Day not have been successful.

“Our landings in the Cherbourg-Havre area have failed to gain a satisfactory foothold and I have withdrawn the troops. My decision to attack at this time and place was based upon the best information available. The troops, the air and the Navy did all that bravery and devotion to duty could do. If any blame or fault attaches to the attempt it is mine alone.”

Accepting credit for success is something most of us find as easy to do. Most of us have to work on accepting responsibility or blame for failure. Failure is not something we

want to think about and certainly not take credit for.

I believe that if we are living a full life that sooner or later there will be failures. There will always be difficulties to overcome. No matter how many risk assessments we make there will always be the times when hard things come our way.

Managers in the customer service industry know that there are times when their product or service is not up to standard. Most are prepared and teach their employees to respond to the customer in a positive manner, even in the midst of a failure. Customer loyalty is solidified when a failure is responded to in a positive manner.

None of us plan to fail. I don't believe that General Eisenhower planned to fail; however he was prepared to assume the responsibility without pointing fingers at subordinates, peers, or his boss. What a great role model of leadership and responsibility!

Consider the words of Joseph to his brothers in Genesis chapter 50. “. . .you meant this for evil, but God meant it for good.” The God which I worship is in the business of taking bad things and making good out of them. He does it all the time.

Finally, the words of Paul to the Church at Phillipi, “. . .continue to work out your faith with fear and trembling.”



# YPG's STEM outreach an example for others

By Mark Schauer

Many times, careers are more a matter of chance and inspiration than destiny.

As such, a variety of U.S. Army Yuma Proving Ground (YPG) outreach programs encourage local youngsters to pursue careers in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) in hopes of them one day becoming members of the Army workforce.

"These programs promote the importance of engineering and STEM in the local community," said Col. Randy Murray, YPG commander. "STEM is important to our nation to keep us competitive. It is particularly important to the long term needs of our proving ground in keeping our mission moving forward."

YPG tests virtually everything in the ground combat arsenal, a mission that requires many highly-trained engineers and math-savvy support personnel to ensure a Soldier's equipment works exactly as it is supposed to. As the advanced equipment Soldiers depend on continues to evolve, inspiring students within the local community to pursue STEM careers is crucially important to the future of YPG and its highly technical test mission. YPG's aggressive outreach efforts in this area have become a model for the Army Test and Evaluation Command as a whole, with the



**Omar Silva, test engineer, captures the students attention as they get involved in the question and answer presentation Silva used in their classroom. (Photos by Yolie Canales)**

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proving ground committed to facilitating visits to at least two elementary schools and one middle school per month during the school year, as well as six high schools per semester. In the past year, YPG engineers spoke to nearly 2,500 local students in their classrooms.

"We consider candidates from anywhere, but it's great to be able to hire Yuma-area people into the workforce because chances are they already know it is a great place to live," said Julio Dominguez, YPG technical



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# Stinger missiles down aircraft at YPG



**On a recent Saturday morning at YPG's Cibola Range, a loud "whoosh" sounded in the sky as Marine trainees fired at remote-controlled unmanned aircraft as each of the more than 40 shoulder-fired Stinger missiles slammed into its target.**

**Photos and Story by Chuck Wullenjohn**

Every few minutes on a recent Saturday, a loud 'whoosh' sounded in the sky above YPG's Cibola Range as Marine trainees fired at remote-controlled unmanned aircraft. Much more often than not, a colorful fireball erupted as each of the more than 40 shoulder-fired Stinger missiles slammed into its target.

To the observer, it was quite an impressive display of accurate firepower.

Based at 29 Palms, Calif., the Marine students had traveled to the proving ground to perform the culminating activity of a two month Low Altitude Air Defense (LAAD) training course -- firing a live Stinger

missile at a realistic target. They had already completed nearly 60 days of training, but as everyone knows, there is no substitute for actually firing a Stinger missile.

"This is the first time the 24 students have a live missile resting on their shoulder, right next to their head, ready to shoot downrange at twice the speed of sound," said Master Sgt. Michael Buxkemper, LAAD staff non-commissioned officer. "It's a bit nerve-wracking when doing it for the first time."

Though the 35 lb. Stinger missile is equipped with modern electronics that "seek" heat emitting aerial targets, each human operator must carefully track and engage targets in order for the system to work properly. The Stinger has little recoil when



**This is the first time the 24 Marine students from 29 Palms Calif., have a live missile resting on their shoulder, right next to their head, ready to shoot downrange at twice the speed of sound.**

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# STINGER

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**Marine students wait to fire the Stinger missile. Each missile was fired from within a concrete bunker while trained instructors stood by to assist.**

fired, for the system is equipped with two engines – one to kick the missile out of the launch tube and, once at a safe distance, another which engages to enable it to soar toward a target. Each missile was fired by students from within a concrete bunker while trained instructors stood by to assist.

“Everyone is nervous in advance of their first shot,” said LAAD Training Section Officer-in-Charge Cpt. Matthew Malinowsky. “You can tell the ones who have already done it by the wide grins on their faces.”

The students enrolled in the course numbered 24 -- one officer and 23 enlisted Marines. The YPG-firing set a bit of history in that the officer was a female – the first Marine Corps female ever to have enrolled in the LAAD course. Prior to this class, the military occupational specialty was open only to males. Six females are registered for the next course.

A native of Birmingham, Ala., 2nd

Lt. Aerial Cecil graduated from college with a four year degree and has been in the Marine Corps for only one year. The students participated in a myriad of training activities during the course, including a six mile hike in which they carried dozens of pounds of personal and Stinger gear. She completed the hike faster than anyone else.

“I credit that to the fact that I’m tall,” said Cecil with a smile. “All Marine Corps officers must adhere to a personal physical standard, and I meet it. I don’t feel any extra pressure.”

Officer-in-Charge Malinowski, who has served in his current position for three years and has fired Stinger missiles at YPG three times in the last nine months, gives credit to the proving ground for the smooth firing operation.

“The proving ground provides us billeting and the range is always

run very efficiently,” he said. “Luis Arroyo is our major point of contact and his support is professional and flawless.”

Buxkemper has visited the proving ground off and on for 18 years, including ten times over the last three years.

“YPG gives us a great setup – exactly what we need to complete the training,” he said as he watched a fireball erupt in the distance. Then he added another comment. “When we came out here last year at this time, I remember it being 110 degrees – really hot,” he said. “Today the temperature rose as high as the low 70’s. I can live with this!”

After firing, the students closed out the successful day of training with a celebratory barbecue that included three deep fried turkeys, hamburgers and hot dogs. The following day, they returned to 29 Palms before returning to their original units or going to new assignments.



**Officer-in-Charge Cpt. Matthew Malinowsky said that thanks to Luis Arroyo (left) their point of contact, the proving ground provides them billeting and the range is always run very efficiently. “Arroyo’s support is professional and flawless,” said Malinowsky.**



**The first Marine Corps female ever to have enrolled in the LAAD course is 2nd Lt. Aerial Cecil who has been in the Marine Corps for one year. “Six females are registered for the next course,” said LAAD Training Section Officer-in-Charge Cpt. Matthew Malinowsky.**



## STEM

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**Abdollah Ebadirad, civil engineer, with the Directorate of Public Works, explains the engineering field in surveying to high school students participating in the STEM Outreach program day hosted by YPG recently.**

director. “You don’t have to go to the expense of bringing someone in and training them only to have them depart a year or two later.”

Classroom visits from YPG engineers most often occur on Fridays, though sometimes there are visits during the workweek, and typically last one hour. Visits with younger students involve a presentation on engineering capped by a miniature engineering challenge, such as making a paper airplane capable of flying the entire length of the classroom or constructing the tallest tower possible out of strips of paper.

“We try to give them practical, real world examples they can relate to,” said Omar Silva, test engineer. “We talk about Play Station and X-Box instead of more conceptual, theoretical engineering.”

Older students, meanwhile, get more specific discussions about engineering and guidance on how to pursue the occupation.

“The end goal when we leave is to

ensure they know what an engineer is and that anyone can become one, regardless of background or gender,” said Iris Espinoza, training coordinator.

“Part of the message is that you don’t have to be a genius, an Albert Einstein, to become an

engineer; what you certainly need to do is to work hard,” said Dominguez. “We try to convince young students that it doesn’t matter if you don’t come from an affluent home or didn’t do real well in math last year, as long as you start working hard now to do well in the future.”

The YPG outreach effort is likely to take particular interest in students in late elementary and early middle school grades. This effort began in earnest near the end of the past school year, when Espinoza and a team of five engineers spent several hours visiting every fourth and fifth grade classroom at Yuma’s Desert Mesa Elementary School.

“The kids were relating to them,”

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# STEM

FROM PAGE 8

said Evelyn Figueroa, fourth grade teacher. "It's amazing because the kids get to see and feel what real careers are like."

The visit to Desert Mesa came on the heels of a Yuma Proving Ground STEM Day where more than 150 students ranging in age from grade school to college visited numerous sites at the proving ground, seeing STEM careers in action and participating in panel discussions with YPG personnel. Event organizers were careful to include folks from a wide range of STEM positions.

"It's important to teach the kids that there is more to STEM than just engineering," said Murray. "We wanted to let them know we have environmentalists, folks who do resource management, and IT work. It was also important to point out women in STEM and highlight the females we have in those fields at YPG."

For their part, YPG engineers who participate in school outreach say that they, too, benefit from the experience mentoring youngsters who could well be future co-workers.

"I like working and talking with kids and seeing the creative ways they work together," said Mike Dickerson, test officer. "We're used to being adult professionals, but when you walk to a third or fourth grader, you're taken back into their perspective of what math and science are to them. Its neat hearing that and trying to communicate my perspective to them."



**Mike Dickerson, test officer, was impressed with the student's creative way of how they work together.**

YPG's engineering mentors are eager to return to local classrooms in the coming school year, but their volunteer efforts inspiring the next generation of engineers are year-round, with sessions delivered to other youth organizations such as the Girl Scouts. Additionally, the proving ground will likely offer several summer hire positions to local college-age engineering students, giving them an opportunity to gain real world experience while contributing to YPG's crucial mission.

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## ATEC

FROM PAGE 1

the team's trust because of their proven integrity while delivering honest assessments in an extremely high-pressure environments, while supporting an Army at war."

Allyn wished Utley and his wife, Lt. Col. Catherine Rusnak, who will soon retire after 26 years of Army service, well in their next assignment in Saudi Arabia.

Looking forward, Allyn introduced the new ATEC commander and his family, Karbler, his wife Leah and two children, at the ceremony, characterizing them as a true Army Family.

"One of the many strengths of our Army is our deep bench of experienced leaders who are ready to take and sustain the command's momentum. We're blessed today to welcome [Major] General Dan and Leah Karbler to lead ATEC into the future," Allyn said.

A United States Military Academy graduate, Karbler was commissioned as a second lieutenant in the Air Defense Artillery Branch. He's served in Operation Desert Storm in Iraq; Operations Desert Vigilance and Desert Fox in Saudi Arabia; and Operation Iraqi Freedom.

Karbler has experience at all echelons of leadership, to include being aide-de-camp to the commanding general of the U.S. Army Air Defense Center where he later served as a cruise missile defense

development officer. He would later return to the Center as the Chief of the Joint Requirements Division for the Combat Developments Directorate.

"I'm confident he will effectively synchronize this great ATEC team with all of our partners," Allyn said. "I have full confidence that the Karbler family is ready to take this championship ATEC team forward to an exciting and challenging future."

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## Commander's Safety Message



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY  
UNITED STATES ARMY YUMA PROVING GROUND  
301 C STREET  
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## June is National Safety Month – “What I Live For”

1. June is National Safety Month and the early part of the “101 Days of Summer” (Memorial Day to Labor Day), a period of increased Family and outdoor activities, from driving to vacation resorts, boating, barbequing, outdoor recreational activities, work activities, etc. This year, the National Safety Month theme is “What I Live For.”

2. The following safety reminders will help ensure a safer summer as we all enjoy the activities that define “What I Live For.”

### a. Vehicle/Motorcycle

**Safety:** Obeying posted speed limits and driving defensively will decrease your chances of being involved in an accident. This includes avoiding texting while driving. Always wear your seatbelt.

### b. Alcohol Consumption:

Driving under the influence of alcohol impairs your judgment. It slows your reaction time, debilitates your physical and mental actions, and is against the law. Be responsible for your actions and have a designated driver.

### c. Planning and

**Preparedness:** Spot hazards early, evaluate their risk, and

remove or control them before harm is done. Consider ways to engage everyone in reducing risk in our workplaces. This applies not only to our work sites, also to our homes.

**d. Safety at Work:** Stay hydrated. Enough water should be carried to provide for normal daily operations and for emergency situations such as being stranded in remote areas. Be aware of the Work/Rest Duty Cycles and Wet-bulb Globe Temperature (WBGT) guidelines. Ensure the proper protective clothing is worn (i.e., hat, long sleeved shirt, long pants, etc). In light of recent accidents, be aware of the “two-man” rule and always utilize “three points of contact” when entering or exiting a vehicle or elevated platform.

3. Leading by example and watching out for each other is necessary to instill safety consciousness for our Soldiers, Army Civilians, and Family members.

4. I wish you and your Families a SAFE summer, filled with good health & happiness while you pursue your vision of “What I Live For,” and please always remember, “Nobody Gets Hurt.”

# You put your family's health first.

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