

New chaplain brings along world of experience

By Mark Schauer

Editor's Note: The Chaplains Corner will resume in the 9 November issue of the Outpost.

After more than 20 years in uniform in the enlisted and officer ranks, Capt. Steven Smith says being an Army chaplain is a calling, not a job.

"We bring Soldiers to God and God to Soldiers" he said. "We put an arm around their neck when they are suffering or going through a hard time."

Hailing to Yuma from a battalion chaplaincy at Fort Sill, Ok., Smith initially thought his new duty station would be much further away.

"When I got my orders telling me I was going to Yuma, I said, 'What country is that in?'" he recalled with a laugh.

A native of Marion, Ind., and son of a Vietnam veteran, Smith's 20 years of service in uniform dates back to 1982 when he enlisted in the National Guard. He married wife Sue, served in Operations Desert Shield and Desert Storm, then spent nine years in the civilian world as an information technology specialist before getting the calling to enter the ministry. After graduating from a seminary in Missouri, he reenlisted as a reservist, serving as a Javelin instructor, a "Total Army" instructor training course instructor, and a unit armorer.

"If your weapon broke down, I could fix it," he said with a smile.

He then became a chaplain candidate in 2003 as part of the regular Army, and ultimately deployed twice to Iraq as a chaplain. As part of his ministry, he endeavored to present a chaplain's coin to every Soldier who went beyond the wire.

"I prayed for every convoy that went out. I wanted to go with them, but they wouldn't let me."

Smith has served in multiple capacities and places, and believes in an active ministry.

"It all goes back to community, to relationships" stated Smith. "That's what I'm trying to develop at YPG. What makes me who I am is my passion and my drive to see this chapel blossom: to



YPG chaplain Capt. Steven Smith holds up a prayer rug memento of his deployment to Iraq's Tallil Airbase in 2008. (Loaned photo)

see it as more than a chapel, as a place of refreshing."

Toward that end, Smith says discussions are underway regarding changing the name of the chapel to 'Oasis: A Place of Refreshing' to attract additional attention and assert the chapel's relevance to

the community. He is excited about the chapel's weekly clubs for kids and teens, and the systematic Bible study for adults that begins the evening of November 4.

His ardor shows in Sunday services, too: he rarely stays behind the pulpit for long, preferring instead to range up and down the aisles of the chapel, preaching not to the congregants but from within them. Recent Sunday services

have included a volunteer cellist along with longtime Protestant services pianist Steve Embry, and Smith says the chapel keenly desires a drummer to play a newly acquired drum set.

"I don't want a dry, non-spiritual service," he said. "I want a service where I have been moved, changed, and challenged."

Smith encourages YPG personnel to attend services and look to the chapel as a place for personal and spiritual guidance, regardless of denominational background.

"There's no sign-in page with a checklist of denominations when you come in. We come in under the same roof, singing the same songs, and praising the same God. I let the word of God speak for itself: when you do that, it will feed faith groups across the board."

There are more events and programs coming, too. Smith plans to begin bi-monthly prayer breakfasts in January, times and places to be determined, and is currently planning a weekend marriage retreat for congregants to take place in San Diego that same month, with child care provided during sessions.

"We have the ministry of presence, to be where the Soldiers, civilians, and contractors are," he said. "Otherwise, they won't know that you care about them."

British photographers pay homage to YPG UH-1 helicopters /Page 2



Wahner Brooks military equipment display, gets a 'wash job' /Page 5



Electro Optical Maintenance Lab has wide impact at YPG /Page 6



British photographers pay homage to YPG UH-1 helicopters

By Mark Schauer

Laguna Army Airfield's (LAAF) UH-1 Iroquois helicopters, better known as the Huey, are leaving the proving ground soon, but not quietly.

An iconic airframe of the Vietnam War, the Huey helicopters have served as workhorses of the proving ground's air fleet for decades. The same airframe that supported testing of the Global Positioning System at YPG in the late 1970s is still used for state-of-the-art testing today. Each of the four Hueys currently

in the proving ground's fleet has been remarkably well maintained, as two film producer brothers hailing from London, England, saw on a recent October morning when a large hangar door slid open to reveal the four airframes gleaming red and white in the morning sun.

Daniel and Jonny Bonny's digital cameras clicked away, and continued doing so for about two hours as a still-utilized UH-1 went through various maintenance routines that have kept it flying in Yuma's punishing environment without a hitch.



The last of the finest: From left, photographer Daniel Bonny and pilots Ralph Arnold and Gerald Fijalka Laguna Army regard three of Laguna Army Airfield's soon-to-be-retired UH-1 Iroquois helicopters during Bonny's recent visit. "It is so quietly professional here," said Bonny of YPG. "The knowledge and expertise of the pilots really comes through. They know everything about the helicopters they are flying." (Photos by Mark Schauer)



LEFT: Jonny Bonny (right) photographs the cockpit of a UH-1 as Daniel Bonny looks on. The brothers envision a multimedia package as the ultimate product of their recent visit, with still photographs appearing in magazines and a video package supplementing it.

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Veteran LAAF pilots Ralph Arnold and Gerald Fijalka were on hand to answer questions.

The UH-1 will be permanently retired from the YPG fleet as soon as its successors, the UH-60 Blackhawk, are fully outfitted with the specialized equipment necessary to support YPG's busy test mission. The change is bittersweet to YPG pilots and military aircraft enthusiasts throughout the country, particularly those who served missions aboard them during the Vietnam War. Yet what inspired the Bonny Brothers, both grade school age when American operations in that war ended, to travel from the United Kingdom to the Desert Southwest during an early autumn day of nearly record temperature to meticulously photograph the aging beauties, inside and out?

"We love aviation and picking out the individual types of aircraft that people aren't going to see anymore," said Daniel Bonny, photojournalist with DB Resolutions. "They'll end up on a display post somewhere that coming generations will drive past and say, 'it's just an old helicopter.'"

"The Huey is analog," added Jonathan

Bonny, cameraman. "We're looking at the last throes of traditional, classic flying, and I think that is a real poignant factor. Today's pilots are coming from a computer generation."

The brothers Bonny envision a multimedia package as the ultimate product of their visit, with still photographs appearing in magazines and a video package supplementing it.

"We want to get it down to a two minute video that holds people's attention about what the Huey has been and explains it is now in the twilight of its career," said Daniel Bonny.

Both men were thoroughly impressed with YPG and had high praise for LAAF's pilots.

"It is so quietly professional here," said Daniel Bonny. "The knowledge and expertise of the pilots really comes through. They know everything about the helicopters they are flying."

"America really is an aviation nation," added Jonny Bonny. "These guys are doing an incredible job as part of daily life: I find that very American. They are quiet, unassuming heroes."

Industrial hygienist values first Western stint

By Yolie Canales

"There is nothing better than loving your job and your place of employment," said Tonya Solomon, Industrial Hygienist (IH) Program Manager for Yuma Proving Ground's Garrison.

With one year at YPG and a total of three years in federal government, Solomon hails from Fort Rucker's Army Safety Center, where she served as an IH instructor. She says she is grateful to have landed such a great opportunity. After working in the private sector for most of her career, she said her goal in the federal government is to keep the workplace healthy and safe.

An only child, Solomon grew up in South New Jersey. "I had never lived on the West Coast," she said. "However, I love it out here, even though I spent much of adult life on the East Coast." She attended college in North Carolina, did her graduate school in Ohio where she received her master's as an industrial hygienist, and worked most of her career in Michigan.

"Since I had spent most of my life back east, I wanted something different in another location, so when this job came open, I applied and here I am. So far, I love my job, love YPG, and feel very safe living in the Yuma community," said Solomon.

Her career path began in graduate school while looking at the toxicology program. "I stumbled onto a sign on the industrial hygienist program door that said: Keep people safe, see all kinds of different work spaces, and never do the same thing twice. This intrigued me. I went in, talked to the people there, and the rest is history," explained Solomon.

Exactly what does someone in the industrial hygienist field do? According to Solomon, no one does the same thing twice in that field, for every situation is unique. "There is always something new to work on," she said.

She performs chemical and biological testing at worksites to ensure workers are not over-exposed to harmful chemicals. When called to a site for testing, and she runs into a "finding," she takes a variety of additional samplings and informs the YPG safety officer and other supervisors. Industrial hygienists are strictly technical consultants to the staff, therefore, they don't have the authority to shut things down. They tell safety personnel what needs to be done, then they take over.

In addition to chemical testing, Solomon conducts inspections to assure that lighting and indoor air quality is adequate in offices and ensures that ergonomic conditions meet federal regulations and standards.

Most challenges she deals with involve keeping abreast of new technology and standards that are always changing. In addition, dealing with many different personalities can be challenging, she said.

Serving as YPG industrial hygienist entails traveling throughout the entire 1300 square mile proving ground. "Since YPG has been without an industrial hygienist for about two years, there is currently quite a bit of catch-up work to do. Slowly, but surely, I'm getting there and will soon be up to date," she said.

Solomon also finds time to enjoy life. She is currently engaged and her fiancé will soon join her in Yuma. She loves to travel, read mystery novels, explore new things, and solve puzzles -- which is why she entered the IH field in the first place. She boasts three grown daughters.



Tonya Solomon not only enjoys her job at Yuma Proving Ground, but also the Yuma community and the experience of living in the West Coast. She looks forward to the three-day weekends so she can take a few trips up the California coast. (Photo by Yolie Canales)

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YPG Contracted Post Office undergoes changes

Editor's Note: There have been lots of questions regarding future mail distribution and the operation of the YPG post office. The following information comes from the YPG Garrison Office of Human Services.

• YPG's Contracted Post Office (CPU), 301 C Street, will no longer provide full service postal services effective Oct. 1.

• Unfortunately, the continuance of the CPU is no longer authorized to be run by the installation. The CPU previously allowed the operation of a window on the private mail side of the post office to provide package shipping, package pickup,

money orders, and purchase of postage stamps.

• The closure of the Contract Postal Unit will not impact the delivery of mail to private mailboxes issued by Army Family Housing. Mail will be delivered by Yuma Main Post Office contractor personnel, however, some larger packages may not fit into private mailboxes.

• In the event a package does not fit, due to size or availability of space, the package can be picked up between the hours of 1 to 3 p.m., Monday through Friday, and 1 to 2 p.m. on Saturdays from the postmaster in building 301. If you cannot pickup

your package during those times, you can request the package be returned to the main post office located on 4th Avenue & 22nd Street in Yuma for pickup.

• Postage stamps are only available at the AAFES Post Exchange (PX). All other postal services must be conducted at the nearest post office or post office annex.

• No monetary transactions will be conducted with the contractors that deliver mail to the private mailboxes.

• Last but not least, for those who wish to know, the postal service doesn't install self-service kiosks in off-site locations.

The U.S. Postal Service has an online service called Click-N-Ship at www.usps.com. This site offers the ability to calculate postage, print a shipping label, track and confirm packages, and buy appropriate postage. When using the "Click-N-Ship" service, your packages can be dropped off with the postmaster at building 301 between the hours of 1-3 p.m., Monday-Friday and 1-2 p.m. on Saturdays.

For more information regarding postal operations for personal mail, please contact the postmaster at 343-9416.

Operators of unattended vehicles will be cited

Vehicle care and security is a vital part of YPG. When you exit any support vehicle, shut-off the engine, and lock the doors. Any vehicle left idling or unattended while running is a direct violation of Army Regulation 190-51. This regulation details the securing of vehicles with weapons or ammunition aboard, vehicles with classified equipment, and vehicles when not in use. The regulation provides specific physical protective measures, stating that parked vehicles "will be secured with a locking mechanism." Place your vehicle in "PARK" and turn your engine "OFF" whenever you leave your vehicle. Use the parking brakes on all slopes and uneven terrain.

YPG Police will issue tickets for unat-

tended running vehicles.

This guidance applies to all vehicles on YPG regardless if they are a car, truck, ATV, personal, GSA, leased, or rental.

New support vehicles arriving daily!

Familiarizing yourself with the controls and indicators of a new vehicle prior to operation is a consistent practice of employees. Vehicle manufacturers make changes to vehicles every year, and some of these changes aren't as easy to recognize as others. Here at YPG, the newest Dodge Ram 1500 trucks' transmission shift levers have been replaced with rotary style knobs.

For more information on improvements to the 2015 Dodge 1500, click the link: <http://www.automotivelatest.com/2015-dodge-ram-1500-changes/>

Motorists advised to prepare for possible delays

Construction began for a new left-hand turn lane on Imperial Dam Road that will provide safe access to YPG's newly constructed Visitor Control Centers. Construction is projected to last until mid-December. The new center turn lane will alleviate traffic congestion and provide safe lanes from which to turn into the visitor center area.

Road work takes place Monday through Friday between 7 a.m. and 4 p.m. Two lanes will be open during the morning and afternoon rush hours.

Only one lane, however, will be available periodically during work hours. Flagmen and YPG Law Enforcement personnel will be onsite to alternate traffic through the work zone at 15 miles per hour. Drivers should prepare for possible delays of up to 15 minutes.

Business access to the visitor center will be maintained.

For more information, contact Frank Garcia at 328-3505, Mark Hanley, at 328-2933, or Ernesto Elias at 376-0080.

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Wahner Brooks military equipment display, gets a 'wash job'



YPG Fire Chief Don Kist (left) and Bill Heidner, Heritage Center Museum Director, use a power washer and an industrial broom to remove oxidation from exhibits at the Wahner Brooks military equipment public display area located in front of the new YPG Visitor Control Center on Imperial Dam Road. They hope cleaning the various items of equipment will extend the lives of these precious artifacts. The vehicle shown in this photo is an M247 Sergeant York Division Air Defense artillery system – one of the few in existence. (Photo by Teri Womack)

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Electro Optical Maintenance Lab has wide impact at YPG

By Mark Schauer

Yuma Proving Ground tests virtually every piece of equipment in the ground combat arsenal in some of the world's most extreme environments.

Likewise, the equipment YPG needs to conduct its test mission is sub-

ject to the same extreme natural elements as the items under test. Giving sensitive test equipment extra protection from heat and dust are major concerns of test crews across the proving ground, as ensuring they are as rugged and portable as possible for treks far downrange, which usually means modifications become necessary. Further, some highly specialized items are not commercially available at all, and would be cost prohibitive to attempt to have built outside the proving



The lab has recently-acquired the three dimensional (3D) printer seen here, which prints out computer aided design (CAD) products with an automated, additive process. The machine melts plastic in various thicknesses the user chooses to produce the part. (Photos by Mark Schauer)

ground.

YPG's electro optical maintenance (EOM) lab is responsible for the maintenance, repair, and even design of a variety of equipment, from cameras and lenses to bomb-defusing robots. It also

designs and fabricates custom items to support the testing work force.

"We fix and repair electronics and optical objects you find downrange," explained Steve Taylor, EOM lead. "We also build new equipment for those who want a new item to help with a test."

The lab includes a machine shop that can refurbish venerable equipment by manufacturing replacement parts that are no longer available on the open market, separate trailers to splice and

repair fiber optic cable, and a specially filtered cleanroom to accommodate the repair of electronic equipment sensitive to dust. It's hard to imagine a piece of test support equipment that the EOM lab's technicians haven't repaired or enhanced.

Engineering technician Saul Millan works on a crew leader box in YPG's EOM lab. Portability and ruggedness are necessary requirements for a wide variety of equipment that supports YPG's test mission.



The EOM also fabricates and machines metal items to support the test mission, as seen here.

"Most of them have their own specialty, from optics and high speed cameras to small surface mount circuit boards and small capacitors and resistors," said Taylor.

One of the most fascinating pieces of equipment in the lab is a recently-acquired three dimensional (3D) printer, a process that uses computer aided design (CAD) to make virtual designs of

products that are then printed in three-dimensions with an automated, additive process. The machine melts plastic in various thicknesses the user chooses to produce the part.

"If it has a lot of small parts that would take a lot of time to machine, they can be printed a great deal faster, especially something small like a lens cap," said Taylor. "Plus, you're saving money by

Engineering technician Bill Dowd works on a new Common Access Card reader that will soon be used at YPG. The modular system will be more reliable and easier to repair than those currently in use.



printing what you want instead of wasting material. In most cases, the part is so small we can have it in about 30 minutes. ”

For those who fear plastic-printed items would fare poorly over time in the extreme Yuma heat, Taylor reports that items already out on the range have fared well thus far. Further, replacing a broken plastic part is less labor and material-intensive than re-fabricating it out of metal.

“If the item does break, I don’t have to expend labor drawing it,” said Taylor. “I just go into the CAD program to find the file, and re-print it. It’s like having an extra worker in the shop.”



EOM lead Steve Taylor inspects a three dimensional scanner inside the lab. “It will be a huge asset to the lab,” he said. “Scanning beats taking measurements with calipers.”

The 3D printer, however, is merely a tool to help human technicians make a wide variety of equipment, from a gun-bore inspection tool that can illuminate the interior of a gun barrel with either light-emitting diode (LED) or ultraviolet light to replacement capacitors and safety upgrades for decades-old high-intensity lighting equipment. The crew is also hard at work making improved Common Access Card readers that will soon replace those currently at the proving ground’s

access control points.

“We’re trying to serve the customer,” said Bill Dowd, electronics technician. “It really does take a team effort.”

YPG has a longstanding reputation of making short-fuse tests possible, and overcoming the obstacles that inevitably occur in testing in an expedited manner.

“If something breaks, we try to fix it as quickly as we can,” said Taylor. “Sometimes in 24 hours if a test in progress has a critical need for it.”

Sometimes a solution goes beyond mere repair and requires intuition. When boxes carrying GoPro cameras dropped out of aircraft during tests were difficult to recover from the desert dun, the EOM lab began fabricating the boxes in fluorescent colors that more readily

stand out. Taylor recalls a vehicle test that wanted to obtain footage of an engine belt that was expected to break under test, and their under-hood camera images were too dark for adequate study. The EOM lab replaced the halogen light under the hood with an LED one to much better effect.

“They were super happy with us,” said Taylor with a smile. “In fact, the customer wanted to buy it.”

—VIEWPOINTS—

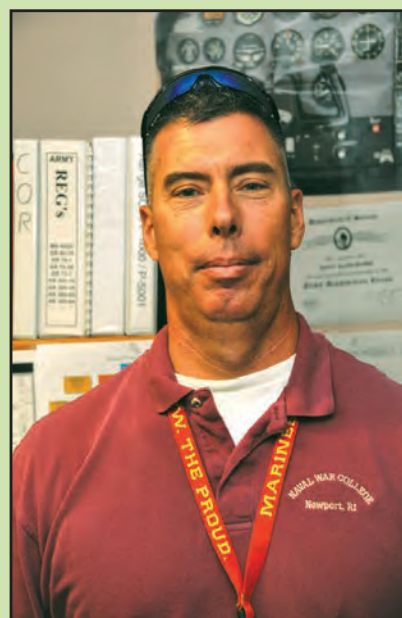
YPG boasts some of the Army's most experienced pilots. We asked pilots at YPG about their favorite part of flying.

By Mark Schauer



Gerald Fijalka, pilot: The outdoors and not being stuck in an office! I’ve been flying since 1979 and have about 8,800 flight hours, and I’m too old to learn anything new.

Ralph Arnold, pilot: That is difficult to answer since everything about it is good, but my favorite part of flying is when I take off when the sun is just below the horizon and dawn starts to break. Everything is so quiet and still, and I see all the beautiful things on the ground and just think, ‘man, it is so cool I get to do this!’



Scott Myers, electronics engineer: I like flying just for the sake of flying, but I prefer mission-related flying. I enjoyed my military flying a lot, and now as a volunteer with the Civil Air Patrol we help with search and rescue missions and drug interdiction. Recently we flew to northern Arizona to help look for small wildfires from the air.

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A story of someone whose drive and determination helped him walk again



Dan Cummings was only 19 years old when his life changed forever. He broke his neck in an accident that left him paralyzed from the chest down. The doctors diagnosed him as quadriplegic and told him that he would never be able to walk again. Instead of accepting their opinion as truth, he was determined to beat the odds and regain his ability to walk.

He went to physical therapy for three years without any remarkable progress. His insurance refused to pay for more. But he refused to give up. He moved to California so he could take part in a much more intensive rehabilitation program called Project Walk, which uses innovative therapies to help patients with spinal

cord injuries regain and improve motor skills. After four years of hard work, he proved the doctors wrong- with the help of a walker, he could walk again.

He decided to dedicate his life towards helping others who have also suffered spinal cord injuries. He founded a physical rehabilitation center called Journey Forward to support other patients with spinal cord injuries. And then, 10 years after he got injured, he managed to walk a mile in support of the center, raising \$75 000 for the organization. This was all made possible by his remarkable drive and determination to never give up.

SOURCE: <http://forinspiredlives.blogspot.com/2010/11/overcoming-disability-3-inspiring.html>

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Yuma Proving Ground celebrates Red Ribbon week

Yuma Proving Ground Army Substance Abuse Program (ASAP) invites the community to take a visible stand against drugs by celebrating Red Ribbon Week from October 23-31.

Red Ribbon Week is the nation's longest running drug prevention program, reaching millions of Americans during the last full week of October every year. Red Ribbon Week raises awareness of drug use and the problems related to drugs facing our community, and encourages parents, educators, business owners, and other community organizations to promote drug-free lifestyles.

Listed below are a few of the many YPG events/activities to help support a healthy and safe environment for children and adults alike.

- Price Elementary school will participate by starting the celebration on October 26th with a "Rally around the Pole" at 8:15am. Parents are encouraged to attend and participate, especially at this event.

- Members of the student council, 5th graders, will be reading the history of Red Ribbon Week followed by students

reciting the drug-free pledge. *

- Throughout the week, the students will be encouraged to support the theme each day.

- On Oct 29th, there will be an assembly at 10:30 a.m., in the school cafeteria with McGruff, the crime fighting dog.

Red Ribbon Week encourages the entire community to adopt healthy, drug-free lifestyles. The red ribbon symbolizes a continuing commitment to reducing the demand for illicit drugs in our communities.

In addition, we ask parents to talk to their children about their goals and how drugs will affect them. Red Ribbon Week provides an opportunity

to be vocal and visible in the efforts to achieve a drug-free community. If any community member would like more information about the dangers of drug use and prescription drug abuse, ASAP can provide pamphlets, resources, and videos. Stop by or contact YPG ASAP at 928-328-3090/2249.

Visit www.getsmartaboutdrugs.com for more information about Red Ribbon Week.



Tips for helping veterans transition to civilian life

According to the PTSD Foundation of America, one out of every three combat veterans are dealing with serious post-traumatic stress symptoms. Add to that the other common challenges that veterans face when trying to transition to a civilian life, and there are a lot of potential problems that can arise. Veterans transitioning to civilian life often have a difficult time adjusting to the lack of structure and change in pace of life. They feel isolated, have difficulties re-connecting to family and friends, and feel stress as they seek jobs and worry about financial issues.

Any transition in life can be challenging. Leaving the military is very stressful for many, explains Ken Falke, chairman and founder of Boulder Crest Retreat located in the foothills of the Blue Ridge Mountains in Bluemont, Va., just 50 miles west of Washington, D.C.. The work at the Retreat focuses on establishing clarity around transition. Understanding where you want to be, how much money you need to make, and what is most important to your quality of life is very important. Once you gain clarity, the fundamentals all seem to come together.

Research conducted by the Pew Research Center found that 27 percent of veterans reported finding it difficult to transition back into civilian life, but that number rises to 40 percent when you poll veterans who have served in the last 10 years. Here are some tips for helping veterans to transition to civilian life:

- * Pay attention to the veteran's behavior to see how well they are adjusting. If there are problems and stress, identify those issues and seek out help for them. Speak with your family doctor or a mental health therapist for advice on the best route to helping.

- * Give the veteran some space and time to adjust. Making the transition isn't something that is going to happen overnight, so being patient and supportive is the most effective route.

- * Suggest treatment programs that can help, such as the one offered by the Boulder Crest Retreat. Being exposed to a variety of therapeutic tools can help during the transition so they have ways to reduce stress and anxiety.

- * Join or build a community. There is help in having good social support. Seek out other veteran groups or families that can be social together. Some of these groups already exist in communities, but if they don't then don't shy away from starting one.

- * Encourage healthy living habits, such as eating healthy, exercising, getting enough sleep, and doing things to help reduce stress.

- * Try to have a plan with some goals, so that you can help the veteran work toward meeting them. They can include goals regarding engaging in therapy, obtaining a new job, etc.

For more information about Boulder Crest Retreat, please visit Caution-www.bouldercrestretreat.org.

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YPG participates at Cibola High School 'Save-a-Life' event



Local high school student Giovanni Charot (left) watches as YPG firefighters Andrew Lammel (center) and John Lidington demonstrate the basics of cardiopulmonary resuscitation at a "Save a Life" event at Cibola High School. Though the primary purpose of the event was to give free heart screenings to student athletes, event organizers were also keen on teaching youngsters what to do if someone they knew had a sudden cardiac arrest. Lammel and Lidington taught the nearly 200 youth who attended how to operate an automated external defibrillator as part of their presentation. (Photos by Mark Schauer)

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