

# THE OUTPOST

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

Volume 41 No. 7 Monday, March 30, 2015

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

## One round every two minutes Critical artillery test conducted

By Mark Schauer

U.S. Army Yuma Proving Ground is the Army's premiere range for artillery testing.

A grand total of the tonnage of artillery fired at YPG across its seven decades of existence would be a staggering figure. Yet few individual tests in the proving ground's history could rival the more than 3,000 artillery rounds fired over the course of 11 days this past December.

"The sheer volume of artillery fire was impressive," said Kermit Okamura, munitions and weapons division chief. "In that time period we fired 20 percent of what we did the previous year in all 155mm artillery."

Some in the surrounding community fancifully assumed that the audible multi-day fusillade was an early celebration of the upcoming new year, but the reality was far more serious: the usability of

the M109A6 Paladin self-propelled howitzer hung in the balance.

For more than 40 years, variants of the M109 have been the most potent self-propelled howitzer in the Army's arsenal, able to rapidly deliver a punishing

barrage of steel downrange across a wide radius of the battlefield, from the jungles of Vietnam to the rugged mountains of Afghanistan. Since first fielded, the M109 has undergone six major changes, all of which were tested at Yuma Proving

Ground. Over the years, the cannon's range has been doubled, the stowage space for artillery shells has been increased, and sophisticated digital communications, fire control and navigation systems added.

In some turreted

vehicles, the gun barrel needs to have a bore evacuator which in turn is connected to the barrel's interior via a series of evacuator holes. The bore evacuator collects high pressure gas as the projectile



LOANED PHOTO

**In December, YPG testers fired nearly 3,000 artillery rounds over the course of 11 days from M284 gun tubes used on M109A6 Paladins like the one shown here. The purpose of the test was to test a method of reclaiming cannon tubes that are no longer serviceable due to corrosion in the bore evacuator holes.**

SEE **ARTILLERY** page 6

Parachuting  
becomes a passion /  
Page 2



Yuma Proving  
Ground's mission  
showcases it's 'best' at  
2015 air show / Page 8



Arizona Guard MPs  
fire on the move /  
Page 12





# Parachuting becomes a passion

By Yolie Canales

Chris Brewer, lead supervisor at YPG's Air Delivery Complex, has been walking the concrete in and outside the building for over 20 years, having been first stationed there as a parachute rigger in 1995. One could probably say this has become his second home.

Brewer spent hours jumping out of trees in his back yard as a child and loved the adrenaline rush it created. He knew way back then that he wanted to be a parachutist.

"In my mind, this was something I intended to do as a career," said Brewer. "I loved it then and still do." He joined the Army at the age of 17 to pursue his dream. He had other job opportunities during his military career, and tried some of them, but parachuting remained a passion.

As lead supervisor, Brewer is in charge of 15 contract civilians, however, there are times when those numbers rise as high as 30, of which 90 percent are former Soldiers once stationed at YPG. His responsibilities range from overseeing the rigging of loads, to testing parachutes, right down to payroll, administrative work and any and all personnel issues.

"My job is interesting, for on any given day, there is something different to deal with, but I love it," said Brewer. "What's not to love about this job? We get to jump out of airplanes and drop hundreds of heavy loads out of the same aircraft. There is always something going on in our shop." Even though he is lead supervisor and deals with many issues, he has four competent assistants, Mark Peters, Tom Hall, Rob Foote and Jeff Dozier, who help run different programs.

"Being a supervisor has its pros and cons," said Brewer. "As a supervisor, you don't have the opportunity to get 'hands-on' as often as you did when you were part of the



LOANED PHOTO

**Chris Brewer (far right) joined with other YPG test jumpers at Fort Bragg, NC., in testing of the C-17 Increased Gross Weight program.**

working crew. You aren't as involved as you would like be to in the actual testing. Your job is to oversee that the work is done accurately, safely and in a timely manner. Safety is of a top priority."

Brewer's job has its challenges. "Mostly these have to do with materials, supplies and equipment," he explained. "In our line of work, we need to have the newest and best equipment, especially when working with personnel parachutes. "It takes a long time to get the supplies we need to do our jobs efficiently. This is one of my biggest challenges." Sometimes they borrow from

SEE **PARACHUTING** page 5

## THE OUTPOST

The Outpost is an unofficial publication authorized under provisions of AR 360-1. The Outpost is published every two weeks by the Public Affairs Office, Yuma Proving Ground. Views and opinions expressed are not necessarily those of the Army. This newspaper uses material credited to ATEC and ARNEWS. While contributions are solicited, the PAO reserves the right to edit all submitted materials and make corrections, changes or deletions to conform with the policy of this newspaper.



News may be submitted to:  
The Editor, Outpost, Yuma Proving Ground, Yuma, AZ, 85365.  
Phone: (928) 328-6143/6189 or DSN 899-6143.  
Visit our website at: [www.yuma.army.mil](http://www.yuma.army.mil)  
or email to: [yolanda.o.canales.civ@mail.mil](mailto:yolanda.o.canales.civ@mail.mil)

**Commander:** Col. Randy Murray  
**Public Affairs Officer:** Chuck Wullenjohn  
**Public Affairs Specialist/Editor:** Yolanda Canales  
**Public Affairs Specialist:** Mark Schauer  
**Technical Editor, Cold Regions Test Center:** Clara Zachgo  
**Marketing Specialist:** Teri Womack  
**Visual Information Manager:** Riley Williams



# April Is National Distracted Driving Awareness Month

## Submitted by YPG Safety Office

Driver distraction has become a growing concern in recent years. In 2012 alone, 3,328 people were killed and 421,000 more were injured in distracted driving crashes. Yet, people continue to believe that they can drive and text or talk at the same time.

Since 2009, Department of Transportation has launched several campaigns to help raise awareness about the dangers of distracted driving. The agency has partnered with many safety groups to reach out to millions of Americans with the message that "One Text or Call Could Wreck it All."

Its distraction.gov website hosts an array of information about the dangers of driver distraction, as well as tools to help combat this growing problem. There you will find facts and statistics, links to a decade of research, an interactive map that displays the distraction-related laws in each state, as well as regulations and enforcement information.

The site also includes tools for parents, educators, teens, employers and community groups:

- Downloadable pledge to help end distracted driving
- Sample legislation
- Downloadable brochure for parents
- Parent-teen driving contract
- Sample employer policy
- Public service announcement videos
- Posters for employers, parents/teens and law enforcement

As of December 2013, 153.3 billion text messages were sent in the US

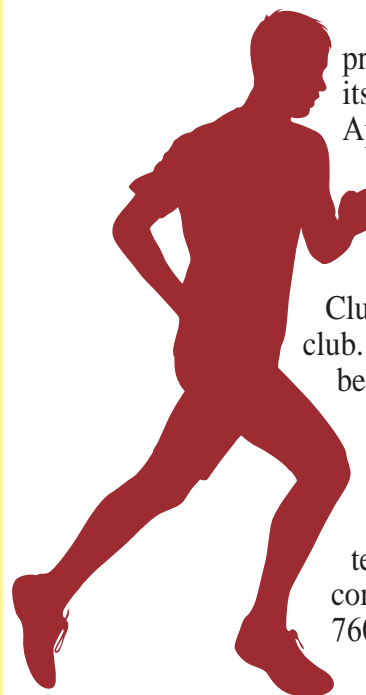
(includes PR, the Territories, and Guam) every month. At any given daylight moment across America, approximately, 660,000 drivers are using cell phones or manipulating electronic devices while driving, a number that has held steady since 2010.



Sending or receiving a text takes a driver's eyes from the road for an average of five seconds, the equivalent – at 55 mph – of driving the length of a football field while blindfolded. Also, using a cell phone while driving whether it's handheld or hands-free, delays a driver's reactions as much as having a blood alcohol concentration at the legal limit of 0.08 percent.

The best way to end distracted driving is to get educated about the danger it poses. Please stop by the YPG Safety Office for information/resources on distracted driving, and always remember that at YPG: "Nobody Gets Hurt."

# AWC Running Club Spring 5k and 3 X 1 Mile Relay



The Arizona Western College Running Club is promoting physical fitness, fun and fellowship with its 5K Run/Walk and 3 x 1 Mile Relay on Saturday, April 11 at AWC's main campus, 2020 S. Avenue 8E in Yuma. The 5k Run/Walk is open to all ages and begins at 8 am. The 3 x 1 Mile Relay is at 9 am and is open to participants 12 and older.

Both events are sponsored by AWC Running Club. Proceeds from the events will go to support the club. The 5k route is designed to offer participants a beautiful, scenic tour of the entire AWC main campus.

Interested participants may register online at [www.active.com](http://www.active.com) or on site the day of the event. The 5k cost is \$15.00 online; \$20.00 on site. The 3 x 1 Mile Relay charge is \$30 for each team online; \$40 per team at onsite registration. For more information, contact Mel Parker, coordinator career services at 344-7603; email: [mel.parker@azwestern.edu](mailto:mel.parker@azwestern.edu)

## The YUMA COUNTY FAIR

## LET'S GO TO THE FAIR!

**MARCH 31ST**  
**THRU APRIL 5TH**

Entertainment • Livestock • Exhibitions • Music • Food • Carnival



Demolition Derby  
7pm - Wednesday



A THOUSAND HORSES

Main Stage  
8pm  
Friday

**Down Home Fun!**

Lanky the Clown • Checker'd Past • Scottie & Trink Juggling Show  
Suzy Haner, Hypnotist • Walking Treeman • Doo-Wahs

**• MARCH 31ST IS TWO DOLLAR TUESDAY •**

visit our website at [YUMAFAIR.COM](http://YUMAFAIR.COM) or call 726-4420

# Tucson visitors amazed at YPG capabilities during recent visit

By Yolie Canales

Members from the Tech Parks Arizona, headquartered at the University of Arizona Technology and Science Park (UA Tech Park) pause for a photo at the HARP Gun site during their recent visit to YPG. The purpose for their visit was to create a better understanding among

participants of YPG's capabilities and to learn the basic structure of the proving ground's operations, test mission, customers and industry interface. The team was accompanied by Julie Engle, President/CEO of the Greater Yuma Economic Development Center.

Julio Dominguez, YPG's Technical

Director, provided the group with an overview of the proving ground's mission. To say the least, they were quite impressed and "wowed" as they learned the number and variety of tests that are conducted on a year-around basis at YPG.

After the briefing, they visited the Aviation Systems and Electronic Test Division where Jason Crouch, test officer briefed them on UAS and sensor testing capabilities. Lastly, they toured the facility where Juan Cuevas, Simulation Branch of Chief and George Franck, mechanical engineer, briefed them on the non-destructive testing capabilities.

"The tour of YPG was very informative and answered several of our questions," said Molly Gilbert, director of University and Community Engagement. "We see great opportunity to partner with YPG and utilize it as an asset that can help draw increased industry presence in the region."

According to Gilbert, they were


amazed at the capabilities and what they saw. "YPG is a very large installation and it is amazing to see all the equipment that is tested for the military and civilian markets as well as the actual labs and equipment contained in them," she said. In addition, Gilbert said how they were impressed at the quality of personnel and their in-depth knowledge. "YPG is truly a remarkable place. We are absolutely looking forward to a more-in-depth visit."

UA Tech Park is one of the nation's premier research parks – a dynamic, interactive community where innovators and business leaders meet, where emerging companies and technology giants work side-by-side. Located in one of Arizona's fast-growing suburban settings on Tucson's southeast side, the Park's spacious campus encompasses 1,345 acres and has almost two million square feet of space for high-tech offices, R&D, and laboratory facilities.

SEE VISITORS page 5

US ARMY GARRISON YPG - DIRECTORATE OF HUMAN RESOURCES

## ATTENTION!



### Official Mail and Distribution Center Update

Please note the following changes beginning 1 July 2015!

- ◊ The Contract Postal Unit window will no longer be operated.
- ◊ All outgoing mail that is not Official Government mail will go through the Post Office drop box located across from the Official Mail and Distribution Center. Oversized items will have to be sent from the nearest Post Office or Post Office Annex.
- ◊ Stamps are available at the AAFES Exchange.
- ◊ Additional lockers for oversize packages will be installed to accommodate delivery of personal mail.
- ◊ For more information regarding postal operations for personal mail please contact the Postmaster at 928-343-9416.











PHOTO BY YOLIE CANALES

The Tucson visitors were particularly impressed with the High Altitude Research Project of the mid-1960s that resulted in the highest altitude cannon shot of all time. Posing for a photo next to the cannon was a treat.



FROM PAGE 2

## PARACHUTING

counterparts to meet deadlines.

He considers the interaction between the Army, government and contractor workforce to be a unique aspect of his job, as well as a great work environment. "The satisfaction one gets when all your people are being taken care of and are happy in their respective jobs is the greatest reward a supervisor can receive," he said.



Born in Ohio and raised in California, Brewer is on jump status and must maintain currency every year. He is annually required to go through a physical, and all of the test jumpers, including himself, have to take and pass an Army Physical Fitness Test once a year to maintain jump status which is a policy for parachutists. In his spare time, he enjoys hiking, running, fishing and camping, or all of the above.

FROM PAGE 4

## VISITORS

UA Tech Park creates interactive ground, which generates, attracts and supports technology companies and talent in alignment with the goals of the University of Arizona. Their special areas of interest include testing, evaluation, and demonstration of new technologies; Security & Defense; Renewable energy; STEM education and workforce development, Mining, Agriculture & water; Biotechnology and Intelligent transportation and vehicles.

# Safety Corner

## The 3-Point Rule - Slips and Falls are Preventable!

### Submitted by Safety Office

Falling while getting into or out of heavy equipment, a truck or tractor cab, hooking up air and electrical lines, or mounting or dismounting trailers is a sure way to get seriously hurt. An insurance industry study showed more than 80 percent of all workplace accidents are the fault of the person injured.

That same study showed that falls from vehicles produced injuries that were almost 25 percent worse than other types of injuries. These injuries can mean major shoulder, back and ankle pain and they can take a long time to heal.

### WHAT IS THE 3-POINT RULE?

The biggest cause of falls from vehicles is failure to follow the 3-point rule, a time tested safety technique proven to reduce to slips and falls. Three of the four critical points of your body (two hands and two feet) should be used to support you. Three points should be in contact with the vehicle while entering or exiting. Not only does it prevent falls, it reduces strain on your knees.

### WHAT CAN YOU DO TO AVOID FALLS?

No matter what type of access system your vehicle has available, use the 3-point rule to significantly reduce the chance of slips or falls. Always make sure that three of your four points are in contact with the vehicle at all times - two hands and one foot, or two feet and one hand.

The 3-point rule allows you to have maximum

stability and support, thereby reducing the likelihood of slipping and falling. Use the 3-point rule each and every time you enter or exit your vehicle, and improve your safety by practicing these critical DOs and DON'Ts:

### DOs

- Wear shoes with good support.
- Enter and exit facing the cab.
- Slow down and use extra caution in bad weather.

• Get a firm grip on rails or handles with your hands.

• Look for obstacles on the ground below before exiting.

### DON'Ts

• Don't climb down with something in your free hand. Put it on the vehicle floor and reach up for it when you get down on the ground.

• Don't rush to climb out. Descend slowly, to avoid straining a muscle.

• Don't ever jump out. You may land off balance or on an uneven surface, and fall.

• Don't use tires or wheel hubs as a step surface.

• Don't use the door frame or door edge as a handhold.

Falls can produce serious and painful injuries. Know the 'do's and dont's' of getting in and out of vehicles safely; practice the 3-point rule every day; and always remember that at YPG: "Nobody Gets Hurt!"





# You put your family's health first.

## We do the same.



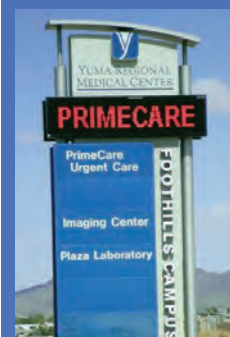
**Central Location** 284 W. 32nd Street 928-341-4563  
Yuma, AZ 85364 6am-11pm 7 Days a Week

Two other locations to serve you:



**Prime Care Kids:** Valley Location  
Mon. - Fri.: 5pm - 11pm 2377 S. 22nd Dr., Yuma, AZ  
Sat. - Sun. & Holidays: 9am - 3pm 928-343-0488  
Clinic Hours: 7am - 7pm  
Monday thru Friday

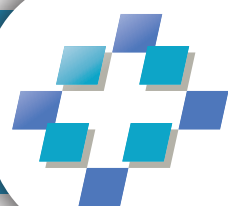
Where parents can bring their sick children to be seen by a pediatrician.



**Foothills Location**  
11142 S. Scottsdale Drive  
Yuma, AZ 85367  
928-345-6830

NEW SUMMER HOURS!  
7am - 7pm  
Monday - Friday

CALL FOR WINTER HOURS!



**PrimeCare**  
URGENT CARE

**(928)341-4563**



Scan with your smart phone to view website with more information.



[www.primecareyuma.com](http://www.primecareyuma.com)

00055684



PHOTO BY MARK SCHAUER

**During the test, more than 100 personnel worked, dividing the day into two 12-hour shifts. "Part of the nature of the job is you might have to practically live out here for a short period of time," said Wayne Schilders, chief of the Weapons Operation Branch. "If war demanded it, we'd be required to. It's nothing Soldiers don't do, though."**

FROM PAGE 1

## ARTILLERY

passes by the holes then vents that same gas once the pressure inside the barrel has subsided. The venting of this gas evacuates fumes and gases out the muzzle end of the barrel. This protects crews inside the vehicle's cab from potentially dangerous levels of gases left behind from a projectile's firing. Unfortunately the bore evacuator holes are susceptible to corrosion and pitting.

M284 Cannon tubes that are no longer serviceable due to corrosion in the bore evacuator holes can be reclaimed. Army personnel had a fix in mind for the problem: bore out the rust surrounding a given evacuator hole, then press a corrosion-resistant bushing into the now-larger hole to bring it back to its original size. It was imperative that this fix be tested

in a safe environment prior to being performed on gun tubes that could potentially be used by Soldiers. YPG was tasked to do so on a very compressed firing schedule: firing over 3,000 rounds from three gun tubes in no more than two weeks.

"Part of the nature of the job is you might have to practically live out here for a short period of time," said Schilders. "If war demanded it, we'd be required to. It's nothing Soldiers don't do, though."

YPG personnel stood ready to support the test, but there were a slew of hurdles that had to be overcome. Fortunately, scheduling conflicts that would otherwise have been inevitable at the Army's busiest proving ground were not a problem so close to the Christmas holiday.

"We got lucky," said Okamura. "Because of the timing, the range was relatively slow. We were able to pull resources to accomplish the mission."

There were other potential challenges, though. Would large fans be necessary to disperse the gun smoke from such a rapid rate of fire? Was enough ammunition available? Ammunition planning at YPG is usually accomplished months in advance, a luxury that wasn't possible for this test given the urgency.

"This was quite a challenge," said Steve Flores, Artillery and Mine Branch Chief. "The problem was if we used everything we had, we wouldn't have enough 155mm ammunition for upcoming projects."

Using three howitzer tubes identified for the testing, firing proceeded at a rate of one round every two to three minutes for most of the 11 days of testing: the only lulls occurred to accommodate inspections of the tubes during shift changes.

"The quicker we got the inspection and measurement data, the sooner we could get rounds fired again," said David Le, mechanical engineer in

SEE **ARTILLERY** page 7



FROM PAGE 6

# ARTILLERY

YPG's physical test facility. "In my entire career at YPG, I have never seen a program fire in 24-hour blocks at top charge."

This pace was even more impressive considering that each round was remotely fired, a different process than firing it as Soldiers in theater would. The pace of the evaluation of the third tube was far slower and more methodical than those of the other two. It was also more heavily instrumented, with high speed cameras filming each shot. The tube was artificially induced to fail after nearly 300 rounds fired, producing valuable engineering test data.

"Ordinarily when we test, we aren't expecting anything to fail, but we are ready

for it," said Flores. "There is a certain level of risk to equipment that we accept. Since we were inducing a failure for this test, we took additional precautions for all instrumentation and vehicles, and conducted extra safety briefings and warnings for personnel."

The pace was ambitious and for the duration of the test YPG was at the center of the Army's attention, but personnel involved in the testing took it in stride.

"People understood the urgency, but it didn't look like the world was on fire," said Okamura. "Other than the high visibility and short test timeline, you wouldn't have noticed any difference in the way operations were going. The professionalism across the board was awesome."

In all, the extraordinary efforts of well over 100 workers made the test a shining success.

"They were able to

validate that the interim fix was suitable to get them to a long-term fix," said Okamura. "The final product was ATEC providing

a safety confirmation recommendation that will be issued with those newly modified tubes."



PHOTO BY MARK SCHAUER

**During the ambitious 11-day test, weapons operators fired an average of one artillery round every two minutes. This pace was even more impressive considering that each round was remotely fired, a different process than firing it as Soldiers in theater would use.**



**THE AMENITIES YOU WANT. THE LOCATION YOU NEED.**

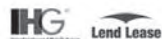
## The New Face of On-Post Hotels.

At Candlewood Suites® on Yuma Proving Ground, we know that convenience is about more than location. That's why we're changing the face of on-post hotels with upgraded suites with fully equipped kitchens, complimentary breakfast, pool, fitness center, and business center. And now, everyone's welcome: active, retired, and civilian.

IHGArmyHotels.com • 877.711.8326

301 C Street, Building 540  
Yuma Proving Ground, AZ 85365  
928.388.6200

**IHG** **ARMY HOTELS**



©2015 InterContinental Hotels Group. All rights reserved. IHG Army Hotels properties are independently owned by Rest Easy, LLC, an affiliate of Lend Lease (US) Public Partnerships, LLC, and operated by an affiliate of IHG. No DOD, US Army or federal government endorsement implied.

# HE is Risen

Join us as we celebrate our Risen Savior  
Sunday April 5th, 2015

"For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life."  
John 3:16

**Sunrise Service 6:30 am**

(Followed by a FREE Breakfast)

**Worship Service 9:45 am**

(Childcare Available)

3726 E. County 13th Street

Yuma AZ 85365

Phone: (928) 344-2409

CTCYuma.com



Calvary Temple of Christ



# Yuma Proving Ground's mission showcases it's 'best' at 2015 air show

By Yolie Canales

Yuma Proving Ground's participation in the 2015 Marine Corps Air Station Air Show was of a smaller scale once again. Planners worked hard to ensure that YPG's exhibit costs amounted to as close to zero dollars as possible, figuring they reduced costs by 95 percent compared to several years ago.

With all the budget concerns and restrictions still in effect throughout the government, YPG still managed to assemble a most respectable exhibit. Thousands of visitors thought so as they handled equipment and subject matter experts were on hand to answer inquiries from the public.

One display item that drew quite an attention, was the workhorse of YPG's helicopter fleet, the venerable UH-1 Huey that will soon leave the proving ground as it is being replaced by the Blackhawk helicopter.

Yes, indeed the proving ground put its best foot forward in designing an interesting, well-rounded exhibit of military equipment tested at YPG.

**An M119 105mm howitzer proved a center of attention, both for group photos and to get a close-up of view of equipment most often seen on television or in movies.**



**"YPG's exhibit location adjacent to one of the main air show entrance gates, ensured that the crowds stopping by never let up. The Humvee proved to be a popular attraction for young children."**



PHOTOS BY MARK SCHAUER





**Staff Sgt. Colin Alexander, from YPG's Airborne Test Force, talks to two young boys about aviation careers in the Army.**



**The workhorse of YPG's helicopter fleet, the venerable UH-1 Huey, is soon to leave the proving ground, as it is being replaced by the Blackhawk helicopter.**

**Handling non-firing replica small arms was a big hit among young and old. This photo shows Gaboury Camarena a member of the "Young Marines" inspecting a handgun while brother, Malaki Madrid, to his right, waits patiently.**



PHOTOS BY MARK SCHAUER



# YUMA'S FUN CENTER



Side By Sides



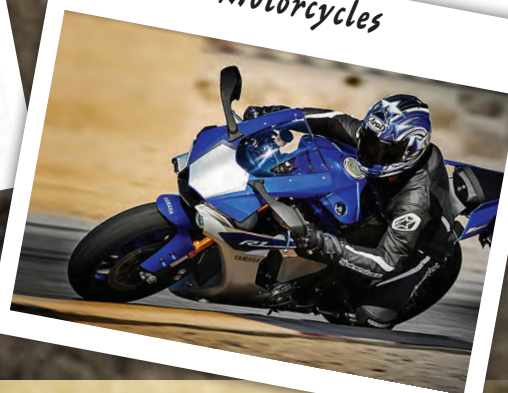
2015 Polaris® Slingshot



ATV's For all ages 6+



Motorcycles



## FULL LINE OF POWER EQUIPMENT

Service • Parts • Accessories • Factory Trained Techs  
Pick-up & Delivery

MAINTENANCE AND REPAIRS ON ALL BRANDS

**Financing Available!**



YAMAHA



POLARIS



Tue.-Fri, 9-6, Sat. 9-4  
Sun. & Mon. "Gone Ridin"  
1999 Arizona Ave.  
782-7580



[www.libertymotorsports.com](http://www.libertymotorsports.com)

## CHAPLAIN'S CORNER

# Remembering what is important

By Chaplain Douglas (Maj.) Thomison

Good day, Yuma Proving Ground. Recently I resonated with an ABC network news segment. It was about a father who was concerned that his autistic son, Hunter, was often left out of kid's activities such as parties and sleepovers. He seemingly had very few friends. Hunter's birthday was nearing, and his father did not want him to feel excluded. Thus, he posted a request for birthday cards. The dad thought that a handful of cards may come in the mail. Well, Hunter received over 600 birthday cards from around the globe. He was not ignored. It is important to be remembered.

This week we celebrated two birthdays in our household. Our family not only recognizes the special day(s) at hand, but the life of the person past and present. It is so very nice to reminisce of moments in time and people near and dear to our hearts. Important days are opportunities that should

not be forgotten.

In the Christian faith tradition, we are now in Holy Week. It is the week that we remember that Jesus Christ predicted his death (Maundy Thursday), died on the cross (Good Friday), and ultimately defeated death and was resurrected from the dead (Easter Sunday).

As Jesus was preparing for what was to come, on Maundy Thursday, He initiated the "Lord's Supper" at the "Last Supper." The Bible says, "And He took bread, gave thanks and broke it, and gave it to them, saying, "This is my body given for you; do this in remembrance of me." (Luke 22:19) We indeed remember that "Christ has died, Christ is risen, Christ will come again!"

During this special week and time of the year, do remember what is important to you and yours. Do take the time and initiative in "going the extra mile" in remembering special days and connecting with loved ones. Have a blessed day, Yuma Proving Ground.





## Holy Thursday

April 2, 2015

### YPG Chapel

5:00 pm – Catholic Mass

## Good Friday

April 3, 2015

### YPG Chapel

5:00 pm – Catholic Passion Service

Meeting at YPG Fellowship Hall

5:45 pm “Walk to the Cross”

Combined Catholic and Protestant Chapel event. All are welcome to join us for a one mile round trip walk to the cross on the hill.

## Easter Sunday

April 5, 2015

### Cactus Café

6:00 am Combined Easter Sunrise Service followed by breakfast.

Please RSVP to 928-328-3465.

### YPG Chapel Regular Services

9:00 am Rosary

9:30 am Catholic Mass

11:00 am Protestant Service



**Local Dealers • Local Buys  
Local Service**

Cars, Trucks, Boats, RVs, Offroad!

Search online, Find your next vehicle, Kick the tires, Drive it home.





# Arizona Guard MPs fire on the move

Story and photos by Staff Sgt. Bryan Barbour

Dust rises as a military convoy rolls across the gravel road. Tactical armored vehicles reach the crest of a hill when a Soldier in the gun turret yelled down to his truck commander inside, "tank, 600 meters!" From inside the M1151 Humvee, the command "engage" was bellowed back.

Arizona Army National Guard (ARZRNG) Spc. Blake Hartwick depressed the trigger on his M2 .50-caliber machine gun, sending out a barrage of bullets. Immediately after, sounds of other automatic weapons in the convoy joined the chorus of gunfire.

The weapons training exercise, which occurred March 6, at Yuma Proving Ground was the first time AZARNG's 856th Military Police Company from Bellemont, Arizona, conducted a convoy live-fire lane with M1151 Humvees and M1117 Armored Security Vehicles since completing their National Guard Reaction Force training mission.

"Previous training had been dealing more with how to operate in the United States, how to talk with civilians, and handle situations here," said Capt. Jerett Burman, commander of the 856th MP Company. "Anything from earthquakes, fires, to civil unrest, things of that nature. We've been exercising primarily in that mind set



**Spec. Blake Hartwick with the 856<sup>th</sup> Military Police Company in Prescott, Ariz., fires an M2.50-caliber machine gun at a tank during a convoy live fire exercise at YPG.**



**Sgt. Matthew Adkins feeds a belt of ammunition at the gun turret of a M-1551 Humvee.**

for that two years, so this is the first time getting back into our combat mindset."

Because the 856th previously focused on how to operate locally within Arizona and with U.S. citizens for the last two years, it's important for the Soldiers to receive this weapons live-fire training.

"Now we have to go out and re-learn what it's like to fight a hostile enemy," said Burman.

As the convoy of four tactical vehicles rolled down the road of the live-fire lane, old rusting tanks littered the range, appearing as if some fierce

battle occurred here decades ago.

"The adrenaline was flowing," said Hartwick, as the lead M1151 Humvee of the convoy approached its first target on the lane.

Hartwick's lips clenched and his face scrunched up with intense focus. His hands tightly gripped the handles his machine gun. He fired off a burst of rounds striking the side of a tank out on the range. Puffs of grey smoke were created as the bullets impacted off its rusted armor. Hartwick's expression changed to that of satisfaction.

SEE **GUARD** page 7

**THE YUMA EXPERTS**  
*We can make it happen*



LongRealtyYuma.com

10602 Camino Del Sol, Yuma, Az 85367  
(928) 342-9851



00058553

**Come And Join Us!**



*Red's Bird Cage Saloon*

Located in the heart of Historic Downtown Yuma

**231 Main St. • 928-783-1050**

Mon-Fri 9am - 2:30am • Open Sat & Sun 6am

00058203



FROM PAGE 12

## GUARD

During the four-day drill, the 856th also conducted weapons familiarization with the Common Remotely Controlled Weapons Station II (CROWS II). The system is new to the Arizona Guard.

Inside the Humvee, where the CROWS II is installed, the gunner sits behind the driver seat with a video monitor in front of him at eye level. At the right, sits a joystick resembling the ones found in the cockpit of a fighter jet. Soldiers in the company compare it to playing a video game as they use a joystick and monitor to acquire targets, safe behind the armor of their Humvee.

"We don't have to be exposed on the turrets of our vehicles to operate a weapons system, said Spec. Matthew Figley, a trainer for the CROWS II, in Detachment 1.

"It's an extremely stable platform on which Soldiers can mount four different weapons systems," said Figley. "The system reduces 80

percent of the weapons recoil which greatly heightens the success rate to impact on target verses the number of rounds going down range."

The CROWS II not only keeps Soldiers protected inside their armored vehicle, it also increases the accuracy of the rounds being sent down range, said Figley.

Back at the convoy live-fire range, the 856th MPs are rotating out to the lane in squad size convoys. Soldiers who have completed the exercise take a moment to relax, several sitting down in the shade, leaning against the side of their vehicles, eating their Meals, Ready-to-Eat (MREs).

After two long days of shooting weapons, Hartwick was enthusiastic about the training.

"You know, you're about to pull the trigger and you're revved-up for that," he said. "You get excited. I never really know when I'm going to put hands on a .50-cal again, let alone, shoot it at a moving Humvee."



**Soldiers fire an M-2 .50 caliber machine gun mounted on a M-1151 Humvee. The 855th MPs conducted crew served weapons familiarization during drill weekend which included training on the M-240B and M2 .50-caliber machine guns, M-249 light machine gun, and Mark 19 40mm grenade launcher.**



**A Soldier links two belts on ammunition together before loading it into a 240 B machine gun. The machine gun was mounted with Commonly Operated Remote Weapons Station II (CROWS II), a new system to the 856th MPs.**

## VIEWPOINTS

By Mark Schauer

YPG employees work long hours, yet still give back to their community. We asked members of the workforce about volunteer work they have done.



**Brittney Dale**, field technician:

My dad was a Mason, so I used to help out at a lot of their functions. I would serve at the big barbecues they had and help out with highway cleanup projects and things like that. Once we took a large group of disabled kids to Martinez Lake for the day. It was fun, and there was always something to do.

**Eddie Pierson**, Motor pool supervisor:

When my daughter started playing fast-pitch softball, her team needed a coach. One thing led to another and I coached for about 10 years, first in city league, then travel ball across several states.

It was rewarding in that many of the girls got scholarships and are still playing, and there was a good family atmosphere on the road trips. We were fortunate to have a good group of girls and families. It took a lot of time and money, and there are several others out here who gave back in the same way.



**Pete Kunkel**, Artillery testing lead:

My wife owns a tattoo shop, so we made some flash boards of cancer ribbon tattoos for \$50 each and did an American Cancer Society fundraiser to help a friend of ours who had testicular cancer. A few years ago we raised \$1500 in a day for tsunami relief through the American Red Cross: we made an event out of it, with free food and a band. It made for a long day, but it was worth it.

## Transportation



## automobiles

Find your next ride  
RevUpSouthwest.com

Cars  
Trucks  
RV's  
Fifth Wheels  
Travel Trailers  
and more !

New Vehicles Daily

Set up your watch list and  
alerts for new inventory



## Rentals



m'factured - mobile homes

Foothills 3bdrm/2ba double-wide, all appliances, private lot w/fenced yard, \$850/mo + dep (sewer included). 928-580-3760 or 928-305-0037



## LESSON OF TIME - KARMA

When a bird is alive.. It eats Ants.  
When the bird is dead.. Ants eat the bird.

Time & Circumstances can change at any time. Don't devalue or hurt anyone in life. You may be powerful today. But remember. Time is more powerful than you! One tree makes a million match sticks... Only one match stick is needed to burn a million trees... So be good and do good.



# MPD ID CARD SECTION



WILL BE **CLOSED**

on Tuesday - Thursday (31 March – 2 April 2015)

From 6:30 am - 5:00 pm

ID CARDS/DEERS/RAPIDS

## EMERGENCIES

CAN BE HANDLED

AT MCAS AT 269-3588

Thurs 7:00 am - 11:30 am only

Walk-ins - Mon, Tues, Wed and Fri 7:00 am - 11:30 am and Thursday's 7 am to 11:30 am. Open only for PIN resets and email loads

Appointments 1:00 pm - 3:30 pm

**Elliott Homes**  
1914 Celebrating 100 years 2014

ElliottHomes.com



**Elliott Homes Solar Communities:**

**Araby Crossing  
NEW PLANS!**

Araby and 32nd Street  
928-783-1800

**Las Barrancas**

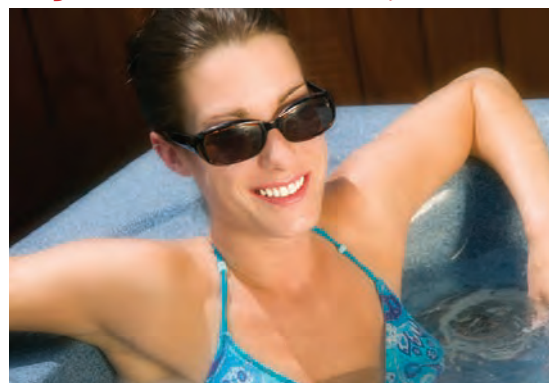
12310 Grand View Drive  
928-345-1623



ENERGY STAR®  
Homes + Solar



**Buy before March 31, 2015 and we'll include a Private Spa in your own backyard!**



- ✓ Solar homes with a wealth of energy-saving, water- saving and money-saving features
- ✓ Private, gated community with clubhouse, pool and spa
- ✓ Open floor plans with mountain and valley views
- ✓ Close to shopping, restaurants and services
- ✓ Priced from \$229,950 to \$243,950

## Call 928-317-9701

or take a drive to 24th Street and Araby Road.

ROC #246945 | ROC # 244491 | DRE # LC656392000

facebook.com/elliotthomesyuma \* Some restrictions may apply. Features, amenities, special offers and pricing subject to change without notice. Special pricing/ special offers cannot be combined.



# 2<sup>ND</sup> ANNUAL TREASURE HUNT OF HOMES

March 27th - May 30th

*Unlock Your Chance to  
WIN BIG!*



## Spectacular Weekly Prizes!



**Caribbean Cruise**  
Courtesy of PHH Mortgage



**iPad with accessories**  
Courtesy of PHH Mortgage



**Las Vegas Getaway**  
Courtesy of PHH Mortgage



**65" Flat Screen TV**  
Courtesy of PHH Mortgage



**\$1000 Lowe's Gift Card**  
Courtesy of Lowe's Home Improvement



**San Diego Padres Package**  
Courtesy of Chicago Title



**Sofa Sectional**



**Grand Prize**  
Swimming Pool Installed in your home.  
Courtesy of Paradise Pools & Spas Inc.

## How to Enter:

- 1** Watch your mailbox for your Treasure Map Entry Form, (or pick one up at the ERA office or any of the model home locations.)
- 2** Visit at least 2 of the model home locations on the map to collect Pirate Gold Stickers on the map. **Visit all 6 model home locations to gain an extra entry in the drawing!**
- 3** While you're there, be sure to post to social media about your experience to be entered in an additional weekly drawing for a \$50 Lowe's Gift Card.
- 4** Chose your preferred lender, such as PHH Mortgage, and fill out and submit a home loan application (You don't need be approved for the loan to be eligible to enter the contest.)
- 5** Turn in your completed Treasure Map Entry Form along with your proof of loan application to the ERA Matt Fischer REALTOR® office at 2755 S. 4th Avenue.

Completed entries will be accepted March 27th through May 29th.  
Grand Prize Drawing to be held May 30th at Sunset Mountain Villas.  
No Purchase Necessary to Enter or Win.



Matt Fischer

REALTOR®

**YUMA OFFICE:**  
2755 S. 4th Avenue, Suite 100  
928.344.2550

**FOOTHILLS OFFICE:**  
11274 S. Fortuna Road, Suite D9  
928.342.3100





# Your vision means so much to so many.



Look good and protect your eyes from harmful UV rays with quality, fashion sunglasses - regular or prescription.

## We Care About Eye Care... You'll See!

- Complete Eye Examinations
- Free LASIK Evaluations
- Ask About Our Special Eyeglass Packages



Patrick D. Aiello, MD



Elliott Snyder, OD



Scot Class, OD



*Two Offices To Serve Your Needs*

275 W. 28th Street  
11551 S. Fortuna Rd., Suite E

**928-782-1980**

[www.yumaeyedoctor.com](http://www.yumaeyedoctor.com)

*Se Habla Español*