

## 3 star equivalent DoD leader from Pentagon views testing close-up

**By Chuck Wullenjohn**

A senior Department of Defense official, a man holding two influential positions, recently stopped by both the Cold Regions Test Center (CRTC) and Yuma Proving Ground to get a close-up view of testing activities and meet with members of the workforce. He spent jam-packed days at each facility, filled with briefings and test site visits.

Dr. David Brown wears two hats -- Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense, Developmental Test and Evaluation, and Director of the Test Resource Management Center. In these positions he has oversight of all DoD test centers throughout the nation. During his visit to YPG, he took a break from a day crowded with briefings and site visits to share some of his thoughts.

*You visited both Yuma Proving Ground and the Cold Regions Test Center. How were these visits worthwhile?*

I consider any visit to a test range valuable, for I need to see what



**Dr. David Brown, who oversees all nationwide military test facilities, helped develop an artillery test data gathering system called the "Projectile Follower," during his early days of government service. The system later became the "Flight Follower," which captures crisp photographic images of projectiles as they fly from artillery tubes. He took special notice of a Flight Follower in use at YPG during his recent visit. (Photos by Chuck Wullenjohn)**

is going on to advocate for and properly represent test ranges in the Pentagon. As components of America's Major Range and Test Facility Base, visits to both test centers were valuable.

*What impressions of the CRTC stand out?*

CRTC boasts a fantastic workforce that brings many years of experience to the acquisition process. If our equipment ever has to fight in the extreme cold environment, we are definitely going to need and make use of that expertise. They play an integral role in making sure our equipment can indeed operate effectively in a very extreme environment.

*Why are visits like this valuable?*

These visits are valuable from several standpoints: First off, I love it, for this relates exactly to what I do inside the beltway -- it fires me up! I meet people and see examples of what the workforce brings to the development process and I am able to articulate those examples when I

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# TESTING

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get back to the Pentagon. It enables me to understand problems and issues I may not be able to pick-up in a phone call or briefing.

Another benefit is that it enables me to share information on the desires and motivations of senior leaders in the Pentagon with the workforce in the field. I see myself as a communicator in both directions.

Being out on a range is where I started both my civilian and military careers. I find it incredibly motivating, for what we are doing is saving the lives of warfighters and helping them defend the ideals of this great nation.

*You have stated that testing is integral to the development process. Can you expound on the importance of this?*

We do developmental testing, which is absolutely integral to the overall development process. While we are in the process of developing something, we have to know it is being developed correctly so that it will work properly at the end of the process. So, while we develop, we must constantly test it and try it out. In my mind, testing must absolutely be integrated with the development



**Capable of producing extremely hot or cold temperatures, YPG's environmental chamber is useful for gathering a variety of weapon system test data, but the real test occurs when the weapon system meets the natural environment, which is much more challenging. Brown believes natural environments are so complex that we don't understand all the interactions with our equipment that can occur.**

process from day one.

Unfortunately, the uninformed and uninitiated think testing and development are two separate things, but they aren't. This is a long running battle. I will take as much time, breath and effort as necessary to educate others that developmental test and development are integral parts of the same process.

*What is the importance of testing in a natural environment?*

Equipment has to operate in a natural environment. These environments are so complex that we don't understand all the interactions of our equipment in a natural environment. We can simulate a great deal and gain insights, but we have to get the equipment in a natural environment during the development process -- much discovery happens there.

*Do you see some equipment developers arguing that a climatic chamber is good enough for testing during the developmental process?*

I see this all the time. I have to constantly dispel the perception that we no longer need to test in a natural environment. Developers argue for test chambers because they want to save time and money. While this kind of testing is useful for some types of discovery, it's not a complete substitute for natural environment testing.

*What is the future of the testing world?*

In the Department of Defense, we seem to go through cycles. In some years I've seen us cut down on the amount of testing for the

sake of efficiency, then we discover problems near the end of the process that should have been uncovered earlier. These are followed by movements to go back to testing early in the process. I've watched the pendulum swing back and forth throughout my career.

We pay a price when we cut testing which should be involved from day one. This testing enables us to discover and learn, as well as reduce risk throughout the process.

*You showed extreme interest in a piece of data gathering equipment, called the Flight Follower, you saw in use at YPG. Why?*

Early in my career, I worked as an instrumentation development engineer helping to develop a very early version of the flight follower system -- we called it the projectile follower at that time. The year must have been 1979 or 1980. The principle was the same as today -- a mirror powered by very high speed motors synchronized to the flight of an artillery projectile so a camera could photograph it at high speed. We ended up obtaining fantastic visual images of direct fire rounds.

## 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.  
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**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



# Garrison recognizes 19 employees at award presentation

## Story and photos by Yolie Canales

Garrison Employee Recognition ceremony for FY 15, 3rd and 4th Quarter and Civilian of the Year, was held last month at the Blowing Alley/Theater. In addition to the 3rd, 4th Quarter and Civilian of the Year awards, 19 employees were presented with Length of Service Awards totaling 130 years of dedicated government service.

Col. Randy Murray, YPG commander and Gordon Rogers, Garrison Manager, had the honors of recognizing each employee for their outstanding performance and dedication to the Department of the Army's mission.

Recognized as the Garrison Civilian of the 3rd Quarter was Vincenzo Avanzini from DPTMS; Civilian of the 4th Quarter was Lorra Greene from PAIO; Family Morale, Welfare and Recreation Directorate Civilian of the 3rd Quarter was Megan Hawes and 4th Quarter was J.C. Peters from the Coyote Bowling Alley. The Garrison Civilian of the Year went to Lorra Greene, and the Commanders Award went to Carolyn Lauzon, from the Equal Employment Office (for her work as a human resources assistant) at the Directorate

of Human Resources.

The following recipients received length of service awards:

### 35 years of service award:

Ronald Rodriguez, Director of Plans, Training and Mobilization Services;

### 30 years of service awards were

presented to: Ellen Cunningham and Abdollah Ebadirad from the Directorate of Public Works; Rhonda LaRose, Garrison; Christopher Lee, Army Substance Abuse Program Manager and Gregory Skaggs;

**25 years of service:** Ismael Delgado Jr., Environmental Division; Patricia Frost, Child Development Center; John Simpson, Garrison Safety and Beverly Williams, Judge Advocate Office;

**20 years of service:** Beatrice Brimmage, Morale Welfare and Recreation Directorate (MSWR); David Conway and Merwood Williams both from Directorate of Emergency Service-Fire;

**15 years of service:** Gary Guyer, Directorate of Public Works; Angelia Pinto, deputy manager, Garrison; Anthony Rios, Directorate of Emergency Services-Fire and Daniel Steward, Environmental Division;

**5 years of service:** Diana Montero and Wendy Paul both from MWR.



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# Military, Family life counseling program offered on YPG

## By Yolie Canales

The Military and Family Life Counseling Program (MFLC) is an ongoing supporting service available to all active military service members and their family's right here on the proving ground.

### What does the program provide families?

Military families face unique challenges. They may struggle with everything from combat-related stress and reintegration to the pressures of managing parenting and finances alone while a loved one is deployed.

The MFLC Program can help – with short-term non-medical problem-solving counseling services that address these and other issues. “These counseling services help service members and their families cope with normal reactions to the varied stresses of military life, enhancing their lives and boosting military readiness,” said Judy Coburn, counselor for the YPG MFLC Program.

In addition to the services mentioned in the above paragraph, the program also provides psycho-education to help military

service members and their families understand the impact of deployments, family reunions following deployments and other stresses related to the military life. MFLC services augment existing military support services; it offers a flexible service delivery either outreach/rotational or on-demand; services can be provided on or off the military installations; services are provided to individuals, couples, families and groups; MFLC are mandated reporters of child abuse, domestic abuse, and duty to warn situations, however, services are otherwise confidential and private.

Coburn said, the MFLC positions are outreach/rotational typical and rotate among Service installations to meet emerging needs such as deployments extensions of deployments, and return and reintegration. They are certified Master's Degree or PH.D. Level, licensed clinical counselors. They work with families, individuals, couples and children to provide non-medical identification counseling services and focus on solutions-based problem solving and can provide crisis intervention when needed.

Mardy Clark, family support director for YPG's Morale Welfare and Recreation Directorate, stated, “YPG's MFLC is mainly in the Child and Youth Services Programs, and works with the children in those areas. However, since YPG is small they are authorized to work with

YPG Soldiers and Families.” “I believe the benefit of the MFLC program is, there is no cost to the Soldier or Family member and they do not take any records,” said Clark.

For more information, call 328-2332.

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# NASA recognizes YPG workforce with awards



Last month, over 40 members of the YPG workforce were recognized by NASA for their noteworthy contributions to the multiple parachute test successes conducted for NASA since 2006 at the proving ground. Seventeen air drops of huge parachutes at high altitudes took place during this time, all in support of the Orion space exploration program. As stated by a senior NASA official at the ceremony, "The path to Mars for Orion runs through Yuma Proving Ground." (Photo by Mark Schauer)



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# YPG study could lead to faster mass parachute drops

**By Mark Schauer**

U.S. Army Yuma Proving Ground is well known for testing virtually every piece of equipment in the ground combat arsenal.

The fruits of this testing include better and longer lasting equipment, as well as the ability to multiply a ground force more rapidly.

For example, prior to the first Gulf War in the early 1990's, the life-expectancy of the tracks used to propel an M1 Abrams Main Battle Tank along the ground was measured in the hundreds of miles. After extensive testing at Yuma Proving Ground, today's tank treads last for thousands of miles.

A more recent example of this high-impact, long-term testing is studies the proving ground's Air Combat Systems Test Directorate have conducted on the C-17 Globemaster to determine the heaviest weight the aircraft can safely carry. A follow-on study has looked at the amount of time and distance necessary between each element of a multi-element insertion of combat parachutists, known tactically as a mass exit insertion of the Global Response Force (GRF).

As we all learned in high school, air behaves like a fluid. The air disturbance left by massive cargo aircraft speeding through the sky is extremely turbulent and fast. The shedding of high and low pressures required for lift rolls up near the aircraft wing tips, resulting in powerful vortices that can remain over the drop zone for several minutes.

"It is very violent," said Keith Allen, team lead in the Aviation Systems and Electronic Test Division.



**YPG's Air Combat Systems Test Directorate has for several years conducted tests on the C-17 Globemaster to determine the amount of time and distance necessary to safely separate each element of a multi-element insertion of combat parachutists. Data collection techniques developed for this study may have far reaching impacts on how wing tip vortices of both military and commercial aircraft may be studied in the future. (Loaned photos)**

"We're talking 150 to 200 feet per second in tangential velocity. It would definitely collapse a parachute if you got caught up in it."

The wings of military cargo planes are equipped with specially shaped finlets to help dissipate this vortex, but the extreme turbulence is still invisible and not able to be

completely eliminated.. As a result, formations of C-17s carrying jumpers are required to keep a minimum distance from each other: if this distance could be safely shortened, more airborne Soldiers could reach the ground and enter a battle faster.

"The current spacing is based on a very conservative approach to

ensure, in all conditions, that the vortices are dissipated or have moved off the drop zone in time for the next element of jumpers," said Allen. "The user community asked us to examine conditions where the distance between elements could be shortened."

In 2014, YPG testers undertook an ambitious two week study of the life cycle of these vortices, using a small Twin Otter aircraft equipped with Light Detection and Ranging (LIDAR), a surveying technology that measures reflections of particulates in the air by illuminating an area of regard with eye safe laser light. The Twin Otter was used to fly above a massive C-17, scanning the wake it left behind. The testers flew missions across all hours of the day and night, during different weather conditions and over different terrain features.

"Our intention was to go into the field to capture vortex data in operationally representative scenarios," said Allen. "We had to first understand the mechanics of the vortices and how they behaved in the field."

The LIDAR used to scan the air disturbances caused by the vortices is sensitive enough to pick up everything within the scanned area, including wind, thermals, and ground effects unrelated to the C-17 passing through the area. To be useful, this data had to be separated out from the effects of the C-17 in time and space, which was quite a challenge.

"We had to develop a mathematical algorithm that not only detected the vortex within all the rest of this noise,

## STUDY

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but separated it out,” explained Allen. “That took several months: we then had to decide which factors about the vortex were most important.”

Once the testers accomplished this feat, they compared the real-world data with predictions that had been made in computer simulations prior to testing. Going forward, YPG testers hope to conduct similar testing in different natural environments. Allen says the information learned in this testing is beneficial to other air drop activities, both at YPG and elsewhere.

“It gives YPG a lot of new capabilities as far as modeling, simulation as well as test methodology and new procedures for collecting wing tip vortices,” said Allen. “The results of these studies are relevant to the entire aviation industry: there are LIDAR systems at large airports that look at the dissipation of vortices to govern their takeoff times for aircraft.” Data collection techniques developed for this study may have far reaching impacts on how wing tip vortices of both military and commercial aircraft may be studied in the future.



**To study the vortices caused by cargo planes, YPG testers conducted more than 150 flights across all hours of the day and night for two weeks, using a LIDAR-equipped chase plane to characterize the aerial disturbance left in the plane's wake. The testers frequently changed their flight approaches in real time to accommodate different wind and weather conditions.**

## VIEWPOINTS

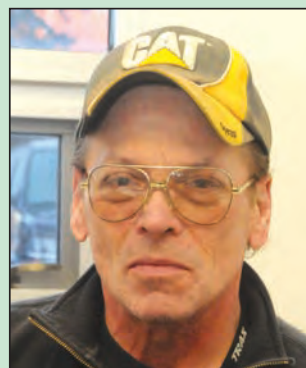
Though interior Alaska had a relatively balmy winter that rarely saw temperatures dip below -25 degrees Fahrenheit, summer is the season many residents look forward to. We asked Cold Regions Test Center personnel what their favorite summertime activity is:

**By Mark Schauer**



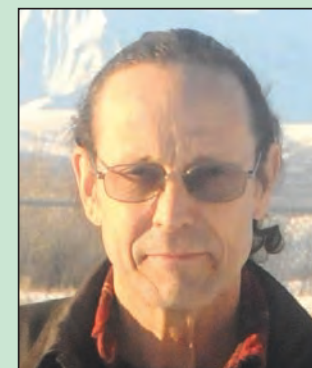
**Sam Porter, machinist:**

Motorsports. It brings two of my favorite things together: building rigs and enjoying the outdoors of Alaska with my family. Most people that live here like getting out fishing and hunting, and I built an off-road truck so we could get across some rivers to more-remote areas in the summer.



**Todd Zachgo, TRAX lead:**

Going out on my 21-foot boat to our cabin up the river. I take the grandkids up and we do a lot of fishing and swimming in the river. Of course there are always the summertime sports for the kids, too.



**Richard Gardner, test vehicle operator:**

Flying my Piper Super Cub and hunting and trapping. I love hunting and trapping and realized that flying was an integral part of living in Alaska. My dad was a flight instructor, so I grew up around airplanes. Flying, hunting, and trapping are the perfect Alaskan harmonic convergence.

# Moose are on the loose and moving freely



**A variety of wildlife roam free on the range at U.S. Army Cold Regions Test Center, including the moose seen here. As the nation's preeminent extreme cold natural environment test range, the facility serves as a natural laboratory that supports testing of virtually every piece of equipment in the ground combat arsenal. For more than 60 years it has ensured that our nation's warfighters have equipment that will perform as expected in a harsh arctic environment. (Photo by Mark Schauer)**



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# Replacing your Social Security card online

**By Wilma Carrasquillo-Facio,  
 Social Security District Manager**

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## CHIEF'S CORNER

### Trespassing and Federal Property

By Dennis Brown,  
YPG Chief of Police

Everyone has that moment during the work week when they think about what to do the upcoming weekend. Do I travel to the city, make a shopping run across the border, plan a fishing trip, or plan an ATV ride with friends and family?

As we all know, the desert southwest offers many wonderful recreational opportunities. However, what must be kept in mind is where can you safely travel and enjoy recreational opportunities without infringing upon regulated Arizona or Federal property.

In the case of Yuma Proving Ground, there is no portion of the property allocated for everyday private recreational use. All improved, unimproved, trails, paths and roadways are on Federal property and not authorized for private recreational use. What this means is that you cannot pull your recreational vehicle or all-terrain vehicle trailer down Castle Dome Road, park on the edge of the roadway, or off the roadway in the desert, and proceed to ride the dunes in the YPG area.

Why, you may ask? Well, essentially it is for your safety. Vast areas of the proving ground have been utilized for all types of training and testing for nearly 70 years, and in the early years, test areas were not formally marked, so dangerous residue could be encountered at any time. This would create a potentially dangerous situation for anyone



encountering them, plus, it's against the law.

On Yuma Proving Ground, all areas bordering range areas are marked with warning signs indicating explosives may be encountered and that the area could potentially be dangerous. These signs are there for everyone's protection and should be observed without fail. Individuals who refuse to observe posted warning signs can and will be charged with trespassing and can be barred from entry upon the installation. There are limited exceptions to this policy, most of which are addressed in the YPG Hunting Regulation.

The Yuma community provides many locations for you to enjoy recreational activities in a safe and secure environment. Please strive to be a standard bearer for the proving ground, obey regulations, and if you observe anyone violating these policies, take the time to notify proper authorities. On YPG, you can call YPG police at 928-328-2720/2663. Do your part to keep the YPG community safe.

## Women's History Month Walk/Run

### March 10

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## CHAPLAIN'S CORNER

Battling Temptation, is it possible?  
*Please read Matthew 4:1-11 and Luke 4:8*

Submitted by Chaplain David Smith

Everybody experiences temptation and must exercise much effort in order to be victorious over it. We all face temptation, but temptation is not sin. Sin involves succumbing to, or giving in to, temptation. If we look at James 1:12, Blessed is the man that endureth temptation; for when he is tried, he shall receive the crown of life, which the Lord hath promised to them that love Him.

Temptation is being enticed to sin. You are walking along the path and someone bumps into you, they hurt you; and the thought flashes through your head to respond in anger. That's temptation. A person of the opposite gender walks by, and something inside you tells you to look him/her up and down; that's temptation. Someone walking with you says something that hurts, and that same voice whispers that you should slander her/him reputation. That's temptation." God's chief purpose in our temptation is that we develop character and come under discipline.

Refuse to feel guilty because of temptation. We all are tempted by

Satan who wants either to entice us to sin or to create a sense of guilt. But we can resist his temptations. You can't stop a bird from flying over your head, but you can stop it from building a nest on your head. "For we have not a high priest which cannot be touched with the feeling of our infirmities; but was in all points tempted like as we are, yet without sin. Let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need" (Hebrews 4:15-16). God is on our side! Prayer will drive away every cloud. Prayer will give strength and courage and become an anchor of the soul. When the battle between righteousness and unrighteousness has been fought to a finish and the smoke from the battlefield has cleared away, we shall be sons and daughters, yes, kings and priests and shall wear a victor's crown.

Remember the services at the chapel are: 0930-Catholic; 1100-Protestant. 0600-Easter Service 27March2016 Cactus Café'

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