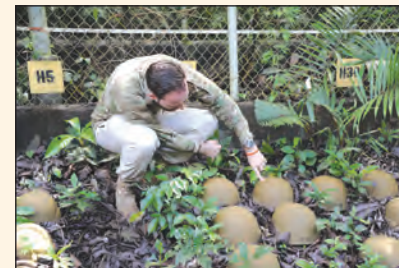




# THE OUTPOST

U.S. ARMY YUMA PROVING GROUND, YUMA, ARIZONA 85365 | VOLUME 65 NO. 24 DECEMBER 12, 2016

## Merry Christmas



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# Army band concerts highlight Yuma Christmas season

By Chuck Wullenjohn

Two packed houses of nearly 640 concert-goers shot to their feet at the conclusion of afternoon and evening performances of holiday music by the 62nd Army Band early this month. The applause and shouts for “more” were almost deafening within the Historic Yuma Theater in old downtown Yuma, as the audience asked for an encore at the end of each concert.

The 62nd Army Band is based in Fort Huachuca, Az., and has made a point of travelling to Yuma annually for many years during the holiday season. The musicians have found the outpouring of community support they receive in Yuma to be outstanding.

Concert tickets were free and were distributed beginning in mid-November both at the Yuma Art Center and Yuma Proving Ground. Demand was greater than the supply of tickets, however, and both performances sold out. A wide cross-section of the community attended, including a large number

of YPG veterans.

“My wife and I look forward to the holiday concert each year,” said former YPG Commander Col. Robert Filbey (ret.) “Concerts like this are important to Soldiers, particularly to those serving far away from home in overseas locations. Christmas carols bring to mind family-members being together – it represents the piece of home you have with you.”

Filbey experienced many Christmas holidays away from home over the years, serving in both Japan and Germany before ending his military career at Yuma Proving Ground in 2000.

Yuma County Chamber of Commerce Executive Director John Courtis said he was “blown away” by the quality of the performance.

“I was so very impressed with the quality of the music and the precision of the individual musicians,” he said. “Everything was big city sensational. My wife and I loved it.”

Courtis believes there is something special in seeing a quality live band



Two packed houses of nearly 640 concert-goers at the Historic Yuma Theater enjoyed a holiday-themed performance by the 62nd Army Band in early December. A wide cross-section of the community attended, including a large number of YPG veterans. (Photo by Mark Schauer)

at work, particularly a military band.

“There is a patriotic element to a concert like this, but I also consider

it ‘down home’ America. This was an excellent couple of hours on several levels.”



From selections of “The Nutcracker Suite” to “Rudolph the Red Nosed Reindeer,” the band warmed the hearts of concertgoers with a variety of Christmastime favorites. “Concerts like this are important to Soldiers, particularly to those serving far away from home in overseas locations,” observed Robert Filbey, former YPG commander. “Christmas carols bring to mind family-members being together - it represents the piece of home you have with you.” (Photo by Riley Williams)

## THE OUTPOST

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# New combat helmet tested to the limits

By Mark Schauer

U.S. Army Yuma Proving Ground and its three test centers test virtually every piece of equipment in the ground combat arsenal in extreme environments to ensure their effectiveness wherever in the world American forces serve.

Just as important to Soldiers, however, is knowing that gear will work whenever they need it, even if it has been stored for long periods of time in less-than-ideal conditions.

Testers at YPG's Tropic Regions Test Center (TRTC) conducting an exposure test of the Enhanced Combat Helmet (ECH) subject the headgear to all of the environmental stresses that the jungle can dish out, from high humidity and precipitation to thick mud and vegetation.

"They are put down in the dirt to really make it as tough as possible," explained Joris Van de Pavoordt, test officer. "It's not how you normally store helmets or how a Soldier would keep their helmet overnight, but the idea is to see how it fares in extreme circumstances."

Made of thermoplastic instead of ballistic fibers, the ECH boasts increased protection from small arms and shrapnel than the current Advanced Combat Helmet (ACH). More than 120,000 of the new helmet have already been delivered to the Army and Marine Corps in the past two years.

For the exposure test, the helmets rest on the ankle-deep leaf and biomass-strewn ground inside a locked double fence cage set within a triple canopy jungle. The security fencing keeps out large animals, but not the natural environment: Broad ferns and other branches, fronds, and vines poke through portions of the chain links.

"We started out with 50 helmets," explained Van de Pavoordt. "Every year, 10 are randomly selected to



Testers at YPG's Tropic Regions Test Center are conducting an exposure test of the Enhanced Combat Helmet, storing the headgear in ankle-deep leaf and biomass-strewn ground inside a locked double fence cage set within a triple canopy jungle. Here they contend with all the environmental stresses that the jungle can dish out, from high humidity and precipitation to thick mud and vegetation. (Photo by Mark Schauer)

go back to the U.S. where they are tested to see if the properties of the helmets are compromised in this environment."

Unlike other Army test centers, TRTC owns no land, and thus relies on the goodwill of host nations to permit testing. The American embassies and associated military groups within each delegation assist TRTC in securing the necessary permissions to conduct testing in a variety of countries.



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# — Shoot'in the Breeze — Happy Holidays!

By David J. Horn

One of the things that everyone in Yuma, from natives to transplants, can agree on is that Yuma is a great place to be during the winter months.

One thing we don't agree on is whether the Christmas season is better here in warm, sunny Yuma, or up there in the snow country.

Yesterday, I got a card from some of my northern friends. The scene on the card shows a horse-drawn sleigh gliding over the snow through the forest on the way to grandmother's house. The card is covered in glitter. It looks very pretty.

But, I have to be honest with you. When I lived up north, I never knew anyone who had a horse and sleigh. I didn't know anyone who lived in a house in a forest. And at Christmas time, my grandmother made us eat lutefisk, an ancient Viking food that is some kind of dried fish that was soaked in lye until it turned into an odorous, gelatinous, glob. Minnesotans are forced to eat it at Christmas as part of a winter purification ritual to prove their Minnesotan-ness. I still have post traumatic flashbacks just thinking about it. And, doesn't that glitter just get all over everything?

Which brings me back to Christmas in Yuma, and the wonderful Christmas traditions that are celebrated here, such as:

## **Tamales.**

Treat your family to some authentic tamales made by local

families who cook them up in big batches this time of year. Whether filled with beef, pork, or dessert style, they are delicious!

## **Local Christmas Pageants.**

From the churches, to the schools, to big productions like the Ballet Yuma's "The Nutcracker," they are a great time.

## **Luminarias.**

After dark, set out those little paper lanterns that are weighted down with a little sand that have a candle on the inside along the sides of the walkway up to your house. They are illuminated magic.

## **Attending the annual lighting of the Friendship Tower, out at Desert Sun Stadium.**

For many folks, that lit-up water tower is Yuma's most visible symbol of the Christmas Season.

## **Attending one of the many night time light parades.**

Vehicles decorated with lights and other fun adornments tour through the neighborhoods.

## **And lastly,**

get involved in that wonderful Yuma Christmas tradition of inviting that single Soldier, Marine, or new person in your office that just moved to the area to join with your family in celebrating a holiday event so they won't be alone. It just might be one of their most memorable Christmases ever! Just make sure, however, that if they ask about bringing a food item to share at your party... it's not lutefisk.

# 'Twas the Days Before Christmas

By Anonymous

'Twas the days before Christmas, and all through the ROC,  
everyone was stirring, from the front office, to the back dock.

At the Free Fall School, rows of parachutes, all packed with care,  
that soon would be floating gently, down through the air.

When all of a sudden, I heard such a clatter!

I rushed to the shop, to see what was the matter!

M1s and Bradleys being fired up, on the shop floor,  
getting ready for maneuvers, heading out that back door.

Out to the range, to test that brand new gun,  
all those rounds to shoot, before the day would be done.

Trucks running up and down hills in order to practice,  
moving supplies safely, without flattening a cactus.

Folks at the Ammo Plant, checking their docket,  
for those just-delivered pallets of rockets.

Out at Laguna, on those tarmac lanes,  
await C-130s, and other, cargo planes.

Black Hawks powering up into the air,  
Look! There goes one! There goes a pair!

Oils being tested at the Petroleum Lab,  
steel being welded over at Metal Fab.

Testing in the tropics, with the humidity and the mold,  
and up at Fort Greeley, in the snow, and bitter cold.

The Museum, hotel, and Cactus Club don't like to boast,  
but they provide their guests the best, down on Main Post.

So on RM! On PAO! On Transportation!

All doing their best, to support our great nation.

And lest I forget, while I have your undivided attention,  
my apologies to all those groups, I didn't have space to mention.

From the east leg to Site 12, from Pole Line Road to up to the JERC,  
with the support of community and family, we take pride in our work.

Where everyone's doing their best, working hard in the faith,  
that we're doing all we can.....to keep our soldiers safe.

Have a wonderful Christmas and a Happy New Year!

**Next Outpost deadline  
is noon *December 29th*  
Sexual Assault Hotline: 920-3104  
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## Safety Corner

# Top ten Red Cross cold weather safety tips

Perhaps you are planning a trip into cold country in the next few months or actually reside there. Here are some tips from the American Red Cross to stay safe during the cold weather.

1. Layer up! Wear layers of lightweight clothing to stay warm. Gloves and a hat will help prevent losing your body heat.

2. Don't forget your furry friends. Bring pets indoors. If they can't come inside, make sure they have enough shelter to keep them warm and that they can get to unfrozen water.

3. Remember the three feet rule. If you are using a space heater, place it on a level, hard surface and

keep anything flammable at least three feet away – things such as paper, clothing, bedding, curtains or rugs.

4. Requires supervision – Turn off space heaters and make sure fireplace embers are out before leaving the room or going to bed.

5. Don't catch fire! If you are using a fireplace, use a glass or metal fire screen large enough to catch sparks and rolling logs.

6. Protect your pipes. Run water, even at a trickle, to help prevent your pipes from freezing. Open the kitchen and bathroom cabinet doors to allow warmer air to circulate around the plumbing. Be sure to move any harmful cleaners and

household chemicals out of the reach of children. Keep the garage doors closed if there are water lines in the garage.

7. Better safe than sorry. Keep the thermostat at the same temperature day and night. Your heating bill may be a little higher, but you could avoid a more costly repair job if your pipes freeze and burst.

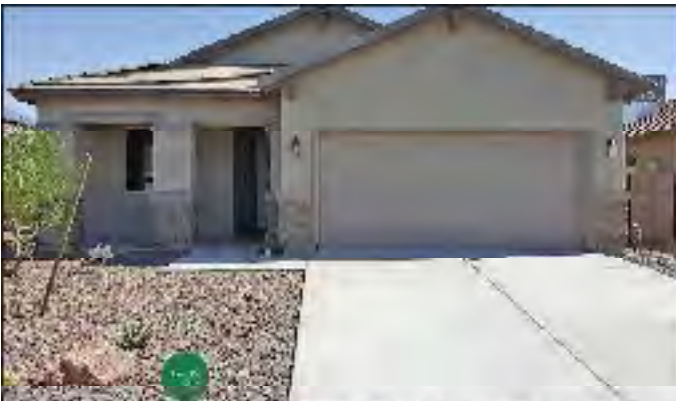
8. The kitchen is for cooking. Never use a stove or oven to heat your home.

9. Use generators outside. Never operate a generator inside the home, including in the basement or garage.

10. Knowledge is power. Don't hook a generator up to the home's

wiring. The safest thing to do is to connect the equipment you want to power directly to the outlets on the generator.

Remember:  
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# YPG put its best foot forward at the City of Yuma's annual Military Appreciation Day

From top left, YPG commander Col. Randy Murray provides opening remarks at the event, followed by former YPG commander and recent Arizona Veterans' Hall of Fame inductee Rob Filbey. Event goers saw a High Mobility Multipurpose Wheeled Vehicle and M119A3 105 mm howitzer and interacted with YPG Command Sgt. Maj. Christopher Prosser and Soldiers from the Airborne Test Force, getting hands on with parachutes and other skydiving equipment ATF uses to complete its mission. They also saw vintage helmets and replica small arms from YPG's Heritage Center, and heard YPG public affairs officer Chuck Wullenjohn, Heritage Center curator Bill Heidner, and public affairs specialist Mark Schauer give YPG-related presentations at the Arizona Historical Society's Sanguinetti House and Gardens. (Photos by PAO staff)





# Christmas in the Army – American Civil War Style

By Chuck Wullenjohn

Every reader of history knows of rosy, illusory claims made by boastful leaders as soldiers gathered to march off to one of the many wars that have occurred in the last 2000 years. “Our side will win quickly and the boys will be home by Christmas.”

One still hears this claim made today, usually spoken by someone far from the battlefield who knows little about combat (though he or she thinks he does.)

During the American Civil War, politicians from both the North and South made this confident statement as armies mobilized and men readied to fight. What people on both sides initially thought would be a disagreement to be settled within a few months, however, turned into a bitter war lasting four years and causing hundreds of thousands of casualties.

Over by Christmas? No way.

Life for the common soldier during the Civil War, particularly when viewed from the perspective of today, was an unpleasant one. Sanitation was bad, rations were poor, medical care was primitive, and leadership was often wanting.

But the complaint that appeared most often in letters and diaries of soldiers had to do with the quality of their food. Though the North supplied its armies better than those of the South, both sides suffered from a monotonous, unhealthy diet. Salted pork or beef, frequently rancid, and corn meal or hardtack, often infested with worms, were common ration items.

Homesickness was a perennial problem for troops in the field, especially around holidays such as



The challenge of properly feeding military forces in the field has always been a difficult one. Today, the United States has devoted great effort and huge sums of money to develop technologically impressive field rations. During the American Civil War, however, both sides suffered from a monotonous, unhealthy diet. (Loaned photos)

Christmas. The arrival of something special to eat in a parcel from home became all the more welcome during these times. Because army provost marshals inspected each parcel before delivery and the boxes piled up on railroad depot platforms, thievery became a big problem. Boxes were often delayed for weeks, frequently being left open and exposed to rain.

One soldier of the 14th Connecticut wrote, “Half the packages were broken, spoiled or stolen. Two boxes were entirely empty when finally delivered.”

But there were happier stories as well. One soldier from Iowa lamented how bad their issued Christmas rations were, but expressed delight a few days later when a Christmas package arrived from home. “It was the first good grub we had for quite some time,” he wrote.

Volunteer agencies also did what they could. In 1863, 5000 turkeys “with all the etceteras” were sent to

the camps of the Union Army of the Potomac to brighten the holidays. Women entered the camp of the Confederate Army of Northern Virginia one early war Christmas to deliver meat, fresh bread, vegetables, pies, and cakes.

One Confederate unit in Virginia sent out a man on Christmas Eve with orders to scour the countryside in search of whiskey and eggs. He returned near midnight, after many of the men had given up hope.

“The eggs were quickly beaten, the sugar and whiskey stirred in, and we had one of the most delicious egg nogs that ever mortal man quaffed,” wrote one of the soldiers. There was enough for two helpings apiece.

As the months of war extended into years, the food situation became grimmer for soldiers of the South. One wrote of being delighted by a holiday package from home containing six peanuts, nine persimmons, some dried apricots, a couple hickory nuts, and a small loaf of cornbread. One North Carolina

soldier in the trenches around Petersburg, Virginia, wrote that his 1864 Christmas dinner consisted of a rat.

There is no doubt that soldiers of the Civil War, as did others in many, many wars throughout human history, endured untold privations that often haunted their health for the rest of their lives.

The challenge of properly feeding military forces in the field has always been a difficult one. The United States and other militaries throughout the world have devoted great effort and huge sums of money to develop technologically impressive field rations. Few commanding officers forget Napoleon Bonaparte’s apocryphal remark, “An army marches on its stomach.”

We can take pride and comfort today that we in the United States live in one of the wealthiest countries of the world, and though some people live in poverty, most go to bed with full bellies each night. We have much for which to be thankful and none of us should take it for granted.

On behalf of everyone in the public affairs office, have a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!



During the Civil War, the complaint that appeared most often in letters and diaries of soldiers had to do with the quality of their food. Salted pork or beef, frequently rancid, and corn meal or hardtack (above), often infested with worms, were common ration items.



# From Europe to the tropics – test team leader relishes new challenges

By Mark Schauer

U.S. Army Tropic Regions Test Center (TRTC) is vital to the national defense because of its ability to test virtually everything in the ground combat arsenal in one of the world's most hostile extreme environments.

Its reason for existence, however, makes the test center especially challenging to find personnel willing to brave the environment while conducting scientific tests. Most of the workforce is local to the region, yet also present, are transplants like Joris Van de Pavoordt.

A native of Rotterdam, The Netherlands, Van de Pavoordt first came to Central America for a semester as a student in 2012 working on a degree in International Business Management. Always intrigued by Central America, he interned in a public relations agency in Panama City and fell in love—with the country and a young lady. Upon graduation, he was determined to return.

"I was looking for a job from home, but it was difficult," he explained. "Eventually I decided to just go and see if I could find something."

What he found was work as a test officer for TRTC, and like most

others, he was quickly wearing many hats. He evaluated Soldier systems from uniforms and rucksacks to helmets, and helped construct a road course for a combat vehicle test and expand by hundreds of meters an overgrown jungle firing range for a sniper rifle evaluation. He found the work exciting, challenging and rewarding.

"I feel we do important work here," said Van de Pavoordt. "It is very important to make sure that no matter where a Soldier goes he has equipment that can withstand the environment. The jungle is the most difficult environment you can go through: small things going wrong can be crippling."

Though he hails from The Netherlands, he has spoken English from a young age.

"It's a big thing in the Netherlands to learn foreign languages. You start English in primary school at 10 or 11, and keep learning all the way through high school. In high school they start with French and German as well. Afterward, all my studies were in English."

In addition to the challenge of his work, Van de Pavoordt enjoys the vibrancy of his new home.

"The change over the past four

years has been incredible," he said. "One of the things I like about Latin America is you can feel the energy here; you can feel the region growing."

So far, his travels have taken him to sparkling Caribbean beaches

and picturesque Central American mountains dotted by coffee plantations. Though he still hopes to travel the world, he has no plans to leave TRTC.

"I like it here. I'm having fun, and I'll stay as long as it remains fun."



In his time with TRTC, test officer Joris Van de Pavoordt has evaluated Soldier systems, helped construct a road course for a combat vehicle test, and helped expand by hundreds of meters an overgrown jungle firing range for a sniper rifle evaluation. He finds the work exciting, challenging and rewarding. (Photo by Mark Schauer)

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# Putting a stop to child abuse

**Submitted by Paul J. Kilanski,  
Family Advocacy Program Manager**

Child abuse is any maltreatment of a child that results in harm or injury. It can include physical, emotional, or sexual abuse and neglect. Physical abuse is purposely hurting a child by hitting, biting or shaking. Emotional abuse includes crushing a child's spirit with threats and put-downs. Sexual abuse is sexual contact with a child; using a child for sexual films or prostitution or obscene language. Neglect is the failure to provide for emotional needs (love, attention, etc.) or physical needs (food, clothing, shelter, medical needs or education) or failure to offer supervision. Millions of cases of child abuse are reported each year. Many more go unreported.

We all need to learn about child abuse because it hurts everyone. The children suffer physical and emotional harm that can last a lifetime, but society suffers too. The cost in ruined lives and broken families can not be measured. But, there is a lot we can do. We can prevent child abuse and limit the damage suffered by children and families.

Abuse and neglect can lead to painful injuries and serious medical problems. In severe cases, the damage can lead to permanent disability or even death. Children depend on adults for security, acceptance and guidance. When adults harm or neglect them, their world can seem uncertain and frightening.

Emotional effects of abuse can last a lifetime and result in low self-esteem. Children naturally think that adults are always correct,

so abused children may grow up believing they are bad and deserving of abuse. Problems with feelings may result from abuse and a child's emotional growth may be stunted. Later in

abuse should seek help—no matter how long ago the abuse occurred.

It is important to understand the people who abuse children.

They come from all economic, ethnic, and social

a parent, relative, or a family friend. It is less common for children to be abused by a stranger.

Many child abusers have low self-esteem and don't think very highly of themselves. Their feelings of failure and frustration may surface as child abuse. They may have poor control over emotions and feel overwhelmed by their feelings. Many child abusers were abused themselves earlier in life.

They may have grown up thinking abuse is 'normal.' There is hope for people who abuse children, or fear they might. With help, they can overcome the problems that lead to child abuse.

Stress is a major factor in child abuse. This stress can be brought on by social isolation, marital problems, financial troubles, illness, lack of parenting skills or alcohol and drug abuse. No matter what the situation--there is no excuse for child abuse! Stress is a part of everyone's life and it's everyone's responsibility to find ways to deal with stress without hurting children.

Many people fear that reporting or admitting abuse will destroy a family. The truth is that getting help can protect children from further harm and help a family face and overcome its problems. In severe cases children may be removed from their homes for their immediate safety. However, proper treatment can often help children and their families return to healthier lives. Child abuse must be reported and addressed! If you are abusing a child or know someone who is, it's your responsibility to act. Contact Child Protective Services, local law enforcement or the National Abuse Hotline at 1-800-422-4453.



life, the child may be unable to show his or her feelings—or to understand other's feelings. Problems with relationships may arise. Poor emotional development and lack of trust can make meaningful relationships difficult as an adult. Many adult abusers were abused as children. Victims of child

groups. There is no 'typical' child abuser: Many are 'ordinary' people. They can include your neighbors, co-workers, or relatives who are having serious personal problems. Very few child abusers have severe mental illnesses. Most know and love the children they abuse. Often children are abused by



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