

Sergeant Major of the Army spends entire day at YPG

By Mark Schauer

Sgt. Maj. of the Army Daniel Dailey spent a long day at Yuma Proving Ground in late October, getting involved in activities that included parachuting from an aircraft, driving a former Soviet tank and meeting with Soldiers at a town hall.

He began his morning with a tandem jump with the Military Freefall School, dropping into Roby Drop Zone from 13,000 feet in clear, calm weather.

“That was a blast,” he told the jumpers after landing. “That’s the most fun thing I’ve done as Sergeant



Sgt. Maj. of the Army Daniel Dailey began a full day visiting Soldiers at YPG by dropping into Roby drop zone with the Military Freefall School. “That was a blast,” he told the jumpers after landing. “That’s the most fun thing I’ve done as Sergeant Major of the Army.” (Photo by Mark Schauer)

Major of the Army.”

Dailey said he had no trepidation about jumping with the Army’s elite paratroopers.

“The level of confidence they have is not to the point where its arrogant, but it’s so profound that you know they are completely invested in what they’re doing, and so knowledgeable and skilled at it, that you have total faith and confidence in them.”

Accompanied by Sgt. 1st Class Alan Myers and escorted by YPG Command Sgt. Maj. Christopher Prosser, Dailey drove a Soviet-era

SEE **SERGEANT MAJOR** page 6

A Soldier’s Soldier: New Command Sergeant Major brings impressive background

By Mark Schauer

After 24 years of service and multiple deployments overseas, Command Sgt. Major Christopher

Prosser is well aware of the immense importance of Soldiers having the best equipment possible.

Last serving in Vilseck, Germany,

Prosser’s first four months at YPG have been active: he has made a strong impression on Soldiers and civilians, visited all three of

the proving ground’s test centers, participated in several community outreach events, and conferred with

SEE **SOLDIER** page 2

Corrosion testing
in the toughest
environment

/Page 3



Army band to soon
fill air with tuneful
holiday music

/Page 6



New Rating System for
GS and WG employees
coming soon

/Page 9



SOLDIER

FROM PAGE 1

the Sgt. Maj. of the Army about YPG topics during his recent day-long visit to the installation.

“The Airborne Test Force and all the civilians I’ve met and interacted with have been extremely professional,” he said. “I’ve been very impressed by their dedication to providing the best and the safest for our Soldiers.”

YPG is his first duty station involved specifically with test and evaluation, though he has supported the testing process in the past.

“The only thing I’ve ever done is send Soldiers on tests. It’s pretty amazing to be on the edge of new technology and material, so I always made sure we sent the best Soldiers.”

Prosser says he has been amazed by the sheer volume of the YPG workload and the effort involved in ensuring every piece of equipment works exactly as it is supposed to wherever in the world a Soldier serves.

“Every round Soldiers fire has been accepted in advance,” he said. “It’s intriguing how meticulously this is done, and there are a lot of hard-working people who make it happen. I’ve been blown away by how detailed the data is and how



His Army career has touched virtually every facet of modern Soldiering life, and Command Sgt. Maj. Christopher Prosser enjoys sharing the Army story at community events such as Yuma’s annual Getting Arizona Involved in Neighborhoods event. “I love talking with kids,” he said. “Them having exposure to us and seeing we are real people, not just someone on TV, is a great opportunity.” (Photos by Mark Schauer)

dedicated the test officers and crews are.”

A native of Pennsylvania, Prosser didn’t expect that he would grow up to be a career non-commissioned officer.

“I didn’t know what I wanted to be when I grew up, so I joined the Army. I was probably the easiest sale in the world for the recruiter. I went to re-enlist at my third year, and

didn’t think twice about it-- it has been an honor to serve.”

His Army career has touched virtually every facet of modern Soldiering life. Among other places,

he was stationed in South Korea, Eastern Europe, and at the Pentagon with the Sgt. Maj. of the Army; served three years as an Army recruiter in Pittsburgh; and deployed twice to Iraq and once to Afghanistan where he served as a brigade operations sergeant major.

Having served as a tanker, Prosser is impressed with YPG’s lengthy history testing the M1 Abrams tank and its subsequent variants.

“The Abrams tank is an engineering marvel, an awesome piece of equipment,” he said with a smile. “When we talk about mobile protected firepower, the Abrams defines it.”

Off duty, Prosser is working on a Master’s degree in management. He says he wants to ensure non-commissioned officers are kept abreast of current developments within the Army and prepared for advancement in their careers. He wants YPG Soldiers to feel comfortable approaching him with issues or concerns, and plans to write a monthly column in the Outpost for further outreach.



Prosser’s first four months at YPG have been active. In September, Prosser (left) visited facilities used by Tropic Regions Test Center with ATEC commanding general Maj. Gen. Daniel Karbler and YPG commander Col. Randy Murray.

THE OUTPOST

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Corrosion testing in the toughest environment imaginable

By Mark Schauer

A fenced-in enclosure looms atop a tall breakwater on the Atlantic Coast of Central America.

Profoundly rusty razor wire coils around the circumference of the fencing, sagging in places. The fence's lone gate is fastened with a massive padlock that takes patient working to unfasten. Both the razor wire and the lock are less than six months old.

Welcome to the U.S. Army Tropic Regions Test Center (TRTC) breakwater exposure site.

"The breakwater environment is quite aggressive," said Luisa Wong, test officer. "Corrosion occurs twice as fast here as the normal coastal environment."

In fact, this particular location has been characterized as one of the most saline-saturated in the world, yet one of the test center's relatively benign coastal sites is only several football field-lengths away.

Such is a small portion of the world of microclimates in which TRTC characterizes and tests all manner of equipment. The customers for exposure testing range from the branches of the United States military and those of friendly foreign nations, to private industry, and academia. TRTC testers expose all manner of equipment in tropical environments, from small samples of paint and metal to uniforms, rucksacks, and weapons.

"Corrosion is logarithmic," said Ernest Hugh, TRTC director. "It starts quickly, then levels off."

At the breakwater site, you might see common implements like hand shovels and saw blades that are grotesquely crumbling into sickly brown dust as the tropical elements

take their toll.

"We did an in-house test of everyday tools in four different exposure sites," explained Wong. "Some of them had very dramatic corrosion after as little as 20 days."

The extraordinarily high salt content of the air isn't the only extreme environmental element that exposed items have to contend with. When it isn't raining, the low latitude sun blazes down, and tropical insects large and small are in abundance. Yet the sturdy elevated racks the test items are affixed to have only the faintest patina of brown discoloration.

"The racks themselves are made of monel," said Wong. "They are probably 60 years old. Monel is a very corrosion-resistant metal that is quite expensive."

The nickel-copper alloy racks can hold dozens of small coupons of metal or fabric, separated from direct contact by ceramic isolators that hold them in place.

"Most of the samples are made of metal, but have different types of coating," said Wong. "We don't know the exact composition of the coating, but customers are studying which coatings can really withstand the environment."

Further, the racks can be tilted to a specific angle for customers who want their samples exposed to a certain level of direct sunlight. The items are recovered and returned to customers after a period of time that ranges from weeks to years depending on the customer's specific needs. Meteorological apparatus collect data regarding weather and chloride levels, and the testers themselves return to inspect the samples at regular intervals.

Exposure to a severe environment



Luisa Wong, test officer, checks on items undergoing testing at Tropic Regions Test Center's breakwater exposure site. TRTC testers expose all manner of equipment in tropical environments, from small samples of paint and metal to uniforms, rucksacks, and weapons. (Photos by Mark Schauer)

like this one can have consequences that a designer or manufacturer never dreamed possible. Some paints, for example, turned fluorescent after exposure, which could have drastic implications for Soldiers trying to operate clandestinely.

TRTC can conduct exposure testing on all kinds of materiel, from bullets and training rounds to sighting systems from howitzers and aircraft. Testing in tropical environments is critical to avoid unexpected

operational problems with the functionality of equipment: dense jungle vegetation can sometimes interfere with chemical-biological detectors, for example, and extreme moisture can degrade body armor and even rifle cartridges.

"A lot of the folks who come to us are repeat customers," said Hugh. "The service they receive is supportive and professional in every aspect, from logistics to test writing and reporting."

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Shoot'in the Breeze Winter visitors

By David J. Horn

Well, winter has come to the desert. I can tell because my lawn's brown, the fruit is ripening on my citrus trees, and the litter in the street out in front of my house now includes busted tail light and bumper pieces from RVs, as opposed to the summer parts that come mostly from little cars with juice can mufflers.

I'm always amazed at Yuma's annual transformation. During the hot summer, Yuma is a sleepy little town filled with fast food restaurants with nobody in them. Then, it always starts the same way. I'm sitting at a stop light and all of a sudden I hear a clanking diesel RV pull up alongside my truck. I look up to see this little white poodle sitting on a lap in the co-pilot's chair, yapping down at me. They're baaaack! In no time at all, the entire area is transformed into a senior citizen Disneyland. Packed golf courses and flea markets. Sidewalk stands selling sweatshirts proudly displaying the message, "Yuma...Canada's southernmost City."

I've noticed that there are two phases to retirement. During phase one, the retirees describe themselves in terms of their former careers, such as "I'm a retired so-and-so." When

they get to phase two, they start describing themselves in medical terms, such as, "Hi. Check out my new knee!"

I used to complain about all the crowds of retired people in the stores at the time I got off work, wondering why all those people, with all that free time, didn't do their shopping in the middle of the afternoon. I wondered that...until one day when I tried to go shopping in the middle of the afternoon.

Driving around town is usually one of the biggest challenges, demanding the most patience. It's all about planning which back streets to take, avoiding left turns, and, because traffic will be moving 10 mph below the posted speed limit, adding a little extra time.

There's a karaoke bar down the street from my house out in the Foothills that each winter explodes into one of the area's most popular hot spots. People in their 70s, going on 17, taking turns crooning out old country western songs and malt shop favorites to an always supportive audience. Romances budding out or breaking up at a breakneck pace, as if there's no tomorrow.

At the end of the day, I have to admit that the winter visitors are



the happiest group of folks I've ever met. What I might think is a big problem in my life is usually something that isn't even on their radar screen. They take each day, and live it with gusto-- a good lesson

for the rest of us.

Well, it's 8:00 p.m. Most of them should be partying back at home in their trailers or RV parks by now. Time for me to go out and get some groceries.

VIEWPOINTS

Yuma's weather is finally beginning to cool, making it feel more like autumn. For this viewpoint, we asked members of the workforce what they like most about autumn.



Bill Heidner,
Curator, Heritage Center Museum

I like my memories of the fall season in a different climate – what we used to call football weather: breathing in the cold, crisp air and watching the leaves changing color. In Yuma, we don't get that much, but it is still nice to have the summer heat finally dissipating.



Iris Espinoza,
Civilian Training Manager

My favorite thing about autumn is the drop in temperature. I enjoy being able to take my children on hikes and bike riding without feeling like the sun is trying to roast us. I also enjoy all the decorating we do for Halloween, Day of the Dead, and Thanksgiving.

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Army band to soon fill air with tuneful holiday music

By Chuck Wullenjohn

The air will be filled with the live melodious tunes of favorite Christmas carols and other seasonal songs on Wednesday, Dec. 7, as the 62nd Army Band performs afternoon and evening public concerts. The performances will take place at the Historic Yuma Theater, 254 Main St., in old downtown Yuma. The afternoon concert will begin at 2 p.m. and the evening concert will begin at 7 p.m. Admission is free, but tickets are required.

Tickets are available at the YPG Public Affairs Office in building 2100, room 56, and at the Yuma Art Center, located at 254 Main Street in downtown Yuma. Seating is limited,

so concert-goers are advised to obtain tickets early. The band performed concerts of holiday music in Yuma last year and each attracted packed houses of over 600 people to each performance.

The theme is, "A very swinging Christmas – holiday classics with a big band flair." The event is sponsored by U.S. Army Yuma Proving Ground, the Military Intelligence Corps Band, the City of Yuma, and the Yuma Art Center.

If you don't have the Christmas spirit when entering the theater to attend one of the concerts, you're almost guaranteed to have it when departing. This is a great way to relax and enjoy a special time of year.



A limited supply of free tickets are now available for two holiday concerts the 62nd Army Band will hold at the Historic Yuma Theater on December 7. The afternoon concert will begin at 2 p.m. and the evening concert will begin at 7 p.m. (Photo by Mark Schauer)

Rob Turner

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SERGEANT MAJOR

FROM PAGE 1

T-72 tank from YPG's target threat yard and paid a visit to Soldiers and testers at YPG's Air Delivery Complex after visiting the Military Freefall School's Daly Terminal and Vertical Wind Tunnel. He also had lunch at the Cactus Café with 15 Soldiers stationed at YPG.

Dailey concluded his visit with a town hall heavily attended by YPG's Soldiers, featuring straight talk about recent efforts to ensure personnel readiness, increase promotion opportunities, and prepare for potential future conflicts with "near-peer" adversaries. He cited statistics that nearly 70% of Soldiers enlisted because a family member had served, and encouraged personnel to utilize the "walking billboard effect" to foster a positive image of the Army. Dailey told the assembled personnel that he was particularly interested in ensuring that training for military occupational specialties will earn credentials that are recognized in civilian society wherever possible.



Following his jump, Sgt. Maj. of the Army Daniel Dailey said he had "total faith and confidence" in the Military Freefall School instructors he tandem jumped with. (Photos by Mark Schauer)

"I know we provide Soldiers with what is, in many cases, better training than that of their civilian counterparts, but they're not getting recognized for it. You can't beg

people to hire veterans—it's not the right thing to do. You have to want to hire veterans, not out of guilt, but because of the value they have."

Members of the audience had

questions and comments about the recently adopted gender neutral rules for Special Forces. Dailey responded that it was not pragmatic for an all-volunteer force to automatically



Sgt. 1st Class Steven Fief gives Sgt. Maj. of the Army Daniel Dailey a tour of the Airborne Test Force's facilities as Master Sgt. Jose Cervera (left) and Command Sgt. Christopher Prosser (right) look on.



Dailey told Soldiers he was particularly interested in ensuring that training for military occupational specialties will earn credentials that are recognized in civilian society wherever possible. "I know we provide Soldiers with what is, in many cases, better training than that of their civilian counterparts, but they're not getting recognized for it," he said.



YPG commander Col. Randy Murray (right) met with Dailey after his Cactus Café lunch with 15 Soldiers stationed at YPG.



RIGHT: Dailey said nearly 70% of Soldiers enlisted because a family member had served, and encouraged personnel to utilize the "walking billboard effect" to foster a positive image of the Army.

exclude half the American population from service based on gender alone, and observed that there have been women on the battlefield from the beginning of the American Revolution in 1775 up to the present day. He went on to reiterate his expectation that all Soldiers will be held to high standards of readiness.

"It is a standards-based Army and will continue to be," he said. "There are no quotas or magic numbers."

Dailey also fielded questions about the status of the long-awaited 185,000 square foot National Museum of the Army, which broke ground at Fort Belvoir, Va. in September, and about potential cuts to Morale Welfare and Recreation budgets. He replied that underutilized services would be discontinued as part of an effort at responsible reductions, but pledged that such cuts would be carefully targeted, not indiscriminate.

Dailey says his visit was personally enriching and provided him with a deeper knowledge of the proving ground's activities that will help him tell the YPG story in the future.



Dailey concluded his visit with a town hall meeting at the post theater featuring straight talk about recent efforts to ensure personnel readiness, increase promotion opportunities, and prepare for potential future conflicts with "near-peer" adversaries.

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YPG got into the Halloween spirit when students at the post's Child Development Center and Price Elementary School strolled through the Howard Cantonment Area on their annual costume parade. Getting cheers and treats from onlookers as they went, the children were safely escorted by officers from YPG's police department. (Photo by Mark Schauer)



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DPMAP – A new Rating System for GS and WG employees coming soon to a computer near you!

By Leslie Smith

The Total Army Performance Evaluation System (TAPES) has been in effect since 1993. In April 2017, it will be replaced with the Defense Performance Management and Appraisal Program (DPMAP). This new program was developed not by management, but by a collaborative effort between union representatives, the Office of Personnel Management and DoD. All DoD GS and WG employees, without exception, will transition to this new program - Army, Air Force, Navy, and Marines.

Face-to-face training will be provided to all GS and WG employees and their supervisors early next year. This program is automated and future rating periods will run from 1 April to 31 March. This will result in the GS/WG-13 and above rating period being shortened to eight months, and the GS/WG-12 and below rating period being extended to 15 months. Both rating periods will end 28 February 2017 and personnel will have a 30 day unrated period while we transition to this new system.

TAPES is a 5-tier rating system from one to five (1, 2, 3, 4, 5), one being the highest. DPMAP is a 3-tier system (5, 3, 1), five being the highest. Under DPMAP, 5 is Outstanding, 3 is Fully Successful, and 1 is Unacceptable. Many



personnel have been under the TAPES system for the entirety of their career, so after 23 years of TAPES, this transition will be a significant cultural change.

As mentioned above, under DPMAP, 3 is a very good rating. It identifies that the employee is doing a good job and is meeting all position requirements. It's anticipated that most, if not all employees, will likely fall into this category.

Under DPMAP, objectives will now be identified as "elements" and each employee will have no more than 10. All elements will be SMART-- Specific, Measureable, Achievable, Relevant, and Timely. If an employee currently has relevant objectives, then no need to reinvent the wheel; simply review those elements and make adjustments to ensure they meet SMART criteria.

The key to this program is continuous, two-way feedback on day-to-day performance. DPMAP empowers employees, and will help them understand where they fit into the organizational mission and goals. It will allow for the ability to improve performance throughout the year, adjust elements as required, and ensure there are no surprises at the end of the rating cycle.

Employee engagement is the foundation of a high performing organization, and that is our goal.

Sexual harassment/assault response and prevention training available

Submitted by Dina Mabry

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SHARP training affects us all. Prevention begins with you. By taking action to promote cultural change across the Army/workplace, with a vision toward a culture of discipline and respect in which we all intervene in sexual harassment and sexual

assault to protect one another, we ensure that the Army/workplace is safe and productive for all (I. Am. Strong Overview). You are an essential part of the SHARP mission!

In this first quarter, we encourage you to complete the online portion of SHARP training for FY17. In the quarters to follow, we will begin our Face-to-Face training sessions and will also host several community events for you to participate in that will count towards fulfilling your training requirements. We look forward to exceeding the SHARP mission and enhancing the quality of life for both Soldier and Civilian here at Yuma Proving Ground.

The online training entitled "Standing Strong" is located on the Army Learning Management System (ALMS). Users should navigate to the Army Knowledge Online (AKO) website at: www.us.army.mil.

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