

## Highway 95 bridge construction imminent

By Chuck Wullenjohn

For many years, YPG commuters and other motorists have been forced to stop their cars and wait, sometimes for hours, when floodwaters rage through Fortuna Wash, forcing a halt to Highway 95 traffic. It was a too-often occurrence, one which caused frustration and stress.

But those days are soon to end. The Arizona Department of Transportation (ADOT) will soon begin construction of a 600 foot bridge over the wash that will enable traffic to flow back and forth smoothly throughout the year, high above floodwaters.

A great many details are coming together now, with planners estimating that the newly constructed bridge will be open for traffic late this year. Construction of an asphalt paved detour that will route traffic around the site of the bridge will be constructed soon and go into use in



**Motorist traveling on Highway 95, north or south, will soon be asked to detour to avoid bridge construction starting in March. Speed limit may be reduced and motorists will have to keep an eye out for slow moving agricultural vehicles and construction traffic. (Photo by Yolie Canales)**

March. Work will be conducted on a Monday through Friday basis, with no weekend work anticipated.

The new bridge will be elevated high above any estimated Fortuna Wash floodwaters. ADOT planners studied rainfall totals over the past 50 years and designed the bridge to easily handle the worst recorded

storm. They estimate the span will have a minimum life of at least 50 years, but, most likely, many more.

The bridge will be constructed from 10,000 cubic yards of concrete and 2 million lbs. of steel reinforcement bars. It will be of the "box culvert" design and consist of 15 concrete cells. Three lanes will be initially

constructed, but the bridge will allow for future expansion into two lanes of traffic in each direction.

When traffic is forced to detour to avoid bridge construction in March, the speed limit may be reduced and motorists will have to keep an eye out for slow moving agricultural vehicles and bridge construction traffic. ADOT estimates that trucks and other construction vehicles will carry about 10,000 loads of materials across the temporary road during the construction period. Obviously, vigilance will be necessary by all drivers.

"Motorists are advised to drive slowly in project areas," said Paul Patane, ADOT Yuma district engineer. "We will work to minimize delays, but occasional delays are a reality. We appreciate everyone's understanding."

Planners aim for traffic to begin flowing over the new bridge sometime in November of this year.

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drops move into  
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# Water treatment plant upgrades in full swing

By Mark Schauer

The average consumer of water on YPG probably doesn't realize it, but an extensive upgrade to the base's water treatment infrastructure is underway, and more than half completed.

The project includes upgrades to six internal and external water tanks in three different cantonment areas, an expansion of the water treatment plant on the Walker Cantonment Area, and a complete overhaul of the treatment plant in the Howard Cantonment Area. The completed project will double the capacity of water that can be treated.

"We're currently at the point where we're about 50 percent completed for both water treatment plants," said Ernesto Elias, Army Corps of Engineers project supervisor. "It will be on budget and on time."

Over 2,500 personnel and several hundred residents and visitors depend on clean drinking water. The

plant that treats water in the Howard Cantonment Area was commissioned in 1987 and exceeded its 20-year life expectancy safely thanks to rigorous maintenance. Recently, however, replacement parts for the aging master control panel that runs the facility have become entirely unavailable on the commercial market, which made the overhaul necessary.

"The water treatment process remains the same, but the new components will be more energy efficient and quieter," said James Pacheco, plant project manager. "We'll have more capabilities to monitor water quality."

YPG's water originates from wells that tap into underground aquifers and are treated by gas chlorinators. Drinking water is treated with electro dialysis reversal (EDR), which uses a small amount of electric current to remove dissolved solids from water, transferring them to an adjacent lagoon after feed water



**Ernesto Elias, Army Corps of Engineers project supervisor, shows the original control panel that took up an entire wall in the Howard Cantonment Area's water treatment plant. In service since 1987, replacement parts for the panel's gauges are no longer available on the commercial market, which necessitated a substantial overhaul of the facility's infrastructure. (Photo by Mark Schauer)**

passes through tall stacks containing sponge-like membranes that filter the tiny particles that affect the flavor and safety of the water.

"It's got a cleaner taste to it," said Elias of EDR-treated water. "There is a high quality standard for drinking water."

The total dissolved solids found in feeder water to the Howard Cantonment Area treatment plant contains about 1000 parts per million. Treatment reduces the dissolved solids to about 220 parts per million. A small amount of chlorine is added to the water as a bacteria-killing agent, as is a trace amount of soda ash as a corrosion inhibitor for water pipes.

In the upgraded plant, pH and chlorine levels of the water will be monitored in realtime via a digital control box that is a small fraction of the size of the plant's massive prior

,master control panel that covered an entire long wall.

An oftentimes overlooked function of YPG's extensive water system is to provide fire suppression. In addition to sprinkler systems in the larger office buildings, Laguna Army Airfield is home to two large water tanks designed to deliver huge amounts of highly-pressurized water in the event of an aircraft accident. Water is also an integral part of temperature control in the summer: Many of YPG's shops use evaporative cooling in the summer, which requires water to moisten pads within the cooler.

The project is slated for completion in February, well before the scorching summer months see a dramatic escalation in water consumption. In the meantime, temporary tanks ensure that water service will not be disrupted.

## THE OUTPOST

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# The most important 'gems' of YPG are its personnel

By Yolie Canales

Yuma Proving Ground is known to many as a hidden "gem" in the middle of the desert. And with the proving ground comes its people, which include the civilian and military workforce, as well as post residents. Members of the workforce bring with them awesome skills, dedication and knowledge, all adding to the utmost in professionalism.

When Glen Polito, Child Youth Services (CYS) training specialist, arrived at YPG one year ago, he hit the ground running. He is an ideal example of someone who highlights the qualities described above.

His priority in the child care field is the safety of children. He wants parents to know that children are safe and sound at the Child Development Center and in all youth programs.

"We have a staff trained in all aspects of child care," he said. "We may not all be at the expert level, but with the continuous training I am responsible to provide, I can assure all parents that we are fully competent to serve as child care providers."

As training specialist, Polito serves as early childhood education specialist for all child care programs including the child development center, family childcare, school-age, middle school, and teens. He oversees a wide scope of training, mentoring, counseling, and role-modeling. He also supports the parent education program, along with developing curriculum covering physical, emotional, social, and cognitive development to identify children with special needs and to ensure they are accommodated. He also serves as liaison with the fire department and



**Glen Polito, Child Youth Services training specialist, conducts one of many classroom training's at CYC. (Photo by Yolie Canales)**

other key personnel for community outreach and risk management.

Born and raised in Okinawa, Japan, he considers himself honored to be a member of the Department of Defense workforce. Although never having served in the military, his father (deceased) was a retired Air Force veteran, and he has the utmost respect for military personnel. Prior to his job at YPG, he worked for 15 years with the U.S. Marine Corps in one of the largest youth sports and family child care programs in Japan, where he learned the importance of enhancing his education. Although it took him several years to accomplish this, he was able to take advantage of the tuition assistance program and completed a Master's Degree in Education; a Bachelors Degree in Psychology and an Associate Degree in Early Childhood Education.

Polito says one of the most unique aspects of his job is the multitude and variety of his responsibilities. This includes facility management, inspections, personnel, budgeting, and even going in classrooms to help out.

"There is no down-time and we are constantly busy with enhancing a quality child care program," said Polito. However, he added with a smile of satisfaction, "At the end of the day, being able to look at all the accomplishments being made through honest, hard work, effort, and patience is very satisfying."

In managing the challenge of handling multiple centers, Polito says communication among managers is critical. "I tend to enjoy everyone here at YPG, work to build strong relationships with others and include laughter in what I do. Why? I believe

it is of the utmost importance in life."

Providing continuous, quality training for the 30 personnel at CYC is one of Polito's primary goals. "Yuma offers many unique opportunities and I want to help members of the staff achieve their goals, whether it's personal or professional," he said. "I promote professional development that includes college, vocational and other life learning classes offered in the classroom or online."

As the population of the United States continues to culturally diversify, he believes it is incumbent upon adults to prepare younger ones to learn resilience and coping skills. "To be able to relate my own Japanese experience and culture with parents going through parenting challenges is quite rewarding," said Polito.

He maintains the importance of staying humble and keeping one's feet on the ground. "Always be grateful with what you have," Polito said. His own priority is to his family. "I truly enjoy seeing my two year-old son grow -- time flies so quickly," he mused with a tone of wistful sadness.

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# Yuma Test Branch veteran recalls service during YPG visit

By Mark Schauer

Yuma Proving Ground as we know it today has operated continuously since 1951 with the mission of testing virtually every piece of equipment in the ground combat arsenal.

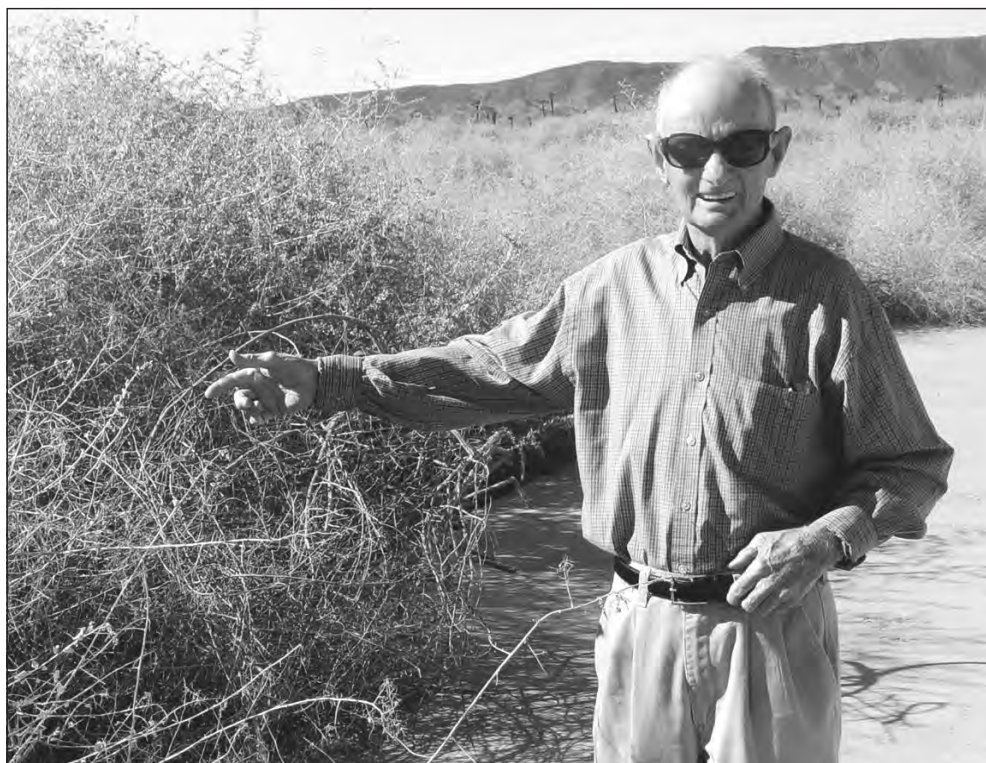
In the 1940s it constituted part of Gen. George Patton's Desert Maneuver Area, a massive swath of the Southwest utilized to realistically train Soldiers for combat in North Africa.

Even during that time, however, a portion of the range was used for testing: in a desilting basin below Imperial Dam, just down the road from modern day YPG, prefabricated portable bridges were evaluated, with testers altering the flow of water from the mighty dam as necessary.

Recently, Milton "Dub" Banning, who served at Yuma Test Branch from 1946 to 1949, returned to visit the remnants of the camp with wife, Libby and two friends. The dam is still there, but little else from that long ago camp, though the concrete pad that served as the foundation for his wood frame and tarpaper barracks still stands on the desert floor, the edges overgrown with scrub.

"When I first came here there were only two barracks, but they had some more later," he recalled as he stood on the exact spot his cot stood. "I didn't ever think I'd get back here. It kind of brings a tear."

The cataclysm of World War II completely altered the social landscape, killing tens of millions and impacting hundreds of millions more. Millions of American men became eligible for conscription, but Banning, a teenager from Fort Smith,



**Milton Banning points to the exact location where his cot stood back in 1949. (Photo by Mark Schauer)**

Arkansas, assumed he would not be able to serve in uniform—his draft board had rated him 4-F, unfit for service due to deafness in one ear. Still wanting to do his part, he left home to work in a defense plant.

"I went to Kansas City to work for North American Aviation building the B-25 bomber," Banning recalled. "When I quit that defense job, 30 days later they sent me a notice—they had non-combat duty for people with just one disability."

He still has his yellowed, but well-preserved draft notice, dated January 17, 1945. He reported for induction at 5:30 am on the 26th, and soon found himself undergoing training in Illinois and at Virginia's Fort A.P. Hill. The war ended in August, but Banning's service continued at Fort

Churchill in frigid Manitoba and at Fort Belvoir, before he got orders to rural Arizona and Yuma Test Station. It was 1946, and his arrival in Yuma in the middle of the night was not auspicious.

"I walked into the train depot to eat, and there was nothing but seats there. I thought 'they know I'm coming, why don't they have somebody here to meet me?' Like I was the president or something."

He spent the night at the Del Sol Hotel, then a bustling resting point across from the city's train depot, and made it to the isolated test station at the foot of Imperial Dam the next morning.

"When I got here, I reported to the sergeant in charge of the motor pool. He looked at me and asked, 'have

you ever run a crane?' Thirty minutes after that, I was an experienced crane operator."

The crane's manufacturer was Lorain, and the company's name was printed in big bold letters along its boom. Banning spent enough time with it to lovingly refer to it by its proper name. Despite this lightheartedness, the daily mission was serious business.

"We started off with the Bailey Bridge. It was on floats: We'd build a section on land, and I'd pick up that section and set it down to where they could join it up and keep pushing until we crossed the river. We had a great time."

Even under controlled test conditions, it was dangerous work, particularly for the tankers assigned to drive across the bridges under evaluation.

"We had two M4 tanks that registered about 32 tons each. After we made sure it could hold the trucks up, we had a brave guy that would take a tank and creep out. His orders were, 'If you feel any slipping, put it in reverse and back off.'"

As crane operator, Banning's played a critical role in the completion of the testing, and is proud there were never any accidents during his tour.

"It was very interesting to be a part of that. I won't say I didn't have a few nightmares, but it was a great duty building those bridges. We were very fortunate."

Banning happened to be at Yuma Test Station when enormous social changes were taking place in the Army and society.

# VETERAN

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"Back then, you had to stay in uniform when you went to town. If you were recognized in civilian clothes, you would be court martialed. I think President Truman changed it."

More significantly, Banning recalls when Yuma Test Station was integrated by an executive order from then-President Truman in 1948. The test station's first three African-American Soldiers were quartered in the far corner of one of the barracks and mostly shunned by their white counterparts.

"Those men were very isolated. I didn't think we had that kind of discrimination, but we had a bad case."

Banning's service at Yuma Test Station came to an end when a mishap with the flow of water caused the desilting basin's concrete

to crack. He was sent back to Fort Belvoir, and heard about a reconstituted Yuma Test Station being re-opened prior to deploying to Korea. He never returned to Yuma while in uniform, however, and didn't re-enlist after his service in Korea as a mechanic. He left the Army in May 1954, and had medals including the World War II Victory Medal and the Korean Service Medal with three bronze service stars.

Back in the civilian world, Banning and his family settled in California. He went to work for the post office and retired as postmaster of Coulterville, California in 1986. The 90 year old reared in the Great Depression and tested in two major wars is grateful to have lived in interesting times.

"The time that I have lived in has seen a great, great change, not only in our government but in the whole world. I think I have lived in about the best time any man would want to see."

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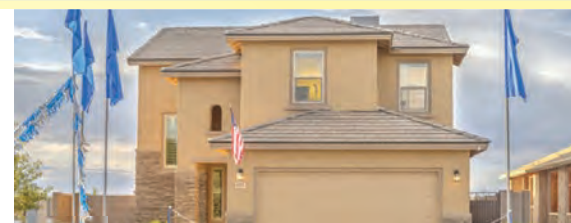


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# NASA parachute drops move into new phase

By Mark Schauer

From the heady days of the Apollo program to the present, YPG has lent its infrastructure and testing expertise to the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA).

In 1966, the Mobility Test Article, an early version of the lunar rover, went through developmental testing on YPG's vast ranges. Fifty years later, the Capsule Parachute Assembly System (CPAS) for the Orion space capsule was dropped early this month from 30,000 feet in the system's 17th and final developmental test.

YPG's contribution to space exploration isn't finished, however: qualification testing for the CPAS will begin this summer, and YPG personnel are ready for the task.

Little change is envisioned regarding future NASA parachute testing coming to YPG. "We will be providing the same support for NASA during qualification testing," said Ryan Fraser, test officer, "and they will be identical tests as far as our support is concerned."

The astronauts who will ultimately fly aboard the Orion capsule count on the CPAS to land them safely back on Earth when their mission is complete. Each of the system's three main parachutes have canopies made with 10,000 square feet of broadcloth nylon, and the rope that makes up the parachutes' cord is made of Kevlar, the strong synthetic fiber used in body armor.

"The parachute system for Orion is comprised of 11 different parachutes, and they all have to operate in a highly choreographed fashion," said Charlie Lundquist, deputy program

manager of the Orion program. "Parachutes are very dynamic things: they flop around in the breeze, and the vehicle moves all over the place. That is very difficult to model, and there is no substitute for real world testing. That's why Yuma is so critical."

The CPAS system is designed to deploy sequentially and pass through two stages prior to being fully open: after hurtling back into Earth's atmosphere, two drogue parachutes deploy to slow the 10-ton capsule prior to main parachutes decelerating the capsule to less than 20 miles per hour. Meanwhile, the extreme friction of the capsule hurtling back into Earth's atmosphere at such a tremendous speed means it's exterior heats to more than 4,000 degrees Fahrenheit. The system is designed with redundancies meant to protect the safe landing of astronauts even in extreme scenarios such as two parachutes failing, or a catastrophic mishap shortly after takeoff, all of which were tested at YPG.

"Over the 17 drop tests that we have done out here, we have learned a lot and incorporated those lessons into the designs of the parachutes," said Lundquist. "I contend that this system is the safest spacecraft recovery system ever designed. We are going to need that high reliability for the very demanding missions in store."

Given that the Orion capsule and CPAS system had a successful first flight in outer space in December 2014, some folks may assume that subsequent developmental tests were anticlimactic. NASA engineers, however, say this is not at all the



**The Capsule Parachute Assembly System (CPAS) for the Orion space capsule underwent its 17th and final developmental test at the proving ground earlier this month. The test used a 44-foot long dart attached to a pallet instead of a mock-up of the Orion capsule. (Loaned photo)**



**Though the developmental phase of the program is now complete, qualification tests of the CPAS will begin at the proving ground this summer. NASA officials expect more than two years of testing remain before the system is fully certified. "They will be identical tests as far as our support is concerned," said Ryan Fraser, test officer.**

## NASA

FROM PAGE 6

case: in addition to being able to outfit the test vehicle with far more instrumentation and cameras than would be possible if it was coming from space, testing over land at YPG makes recovery and examination of the parachutes easier than when it lands in the ocean, as in a real space mission.

Once the January drop was completed, personnel fanned out and carefully recovered the massive parachutes and lines from the desert floor, gathering them slowly and methodically to allow testers to evaluate any damage that may have occurred during landing. As the packed parachutes made the journey back to the Air Delivery Complex, where they were suspended from a high ceiling and carefully studied, workers from YPG's motor pool used a large crane to lift the massive test capsule onto a lowboy trailer for

transport back to Yuma.

The developmental phase of the program is now complete, but more evaluations remain. Qualification tests start at the proving ground this summer, and NASA officials expect more than two years of testing remain before the CPAS is fully certified.

"As a test officer, it is great to see the NASA team complete this phase and move into their testing phase," said Fraser.

For their part, NASA is looking forward not only to sending astronauts aboard the Orion to the moon and Mars, but to inspire the next generation of young scientists and engineers.

"One of NASA's missions is to excite young people about technology, science, engineering and math," said Lundquist. "I was around when the Apollo astronauts landed on the moon, and that was very influential in steering me toward the technical disciplines."

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# Income Tax preparation available at YPG's Judge Advocate

**Submitted by Gary Jones**

The Command Judge Advocate Office is preparing 2015 tax returns in cooperation with the IRS military Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) Program. The YPG Installation Tax Program is part of the Army Legal Assistance Program and is here to help eligible personnel for free!

Jamie Williamson and Kristina Bowen will be volunteering at the Palm Gardens library this year while Beverly Williams will be in the Command Judge Advocate (Legal) Office to assist you with preparing your tax returns.

## Tax Season: Now through April 11.

The following are frequently asked questions:

**Who is eligible?** You are eligible to receive free income tax preparation and electronic filing if you are active duty, retired military, a family member/dependent, or a civilian on orders for deployment or transfer overseas.

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Please ensure you provide a good telephone number on your forms.

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**Services not provided:** Small Business (this includes renting property other than a principal residence), Non-cash donations over \$500, foreclosures, cancelled debt, and Railroad Retirement. These services are outside the scope of the VITA and Legal Assistance Programs.

**Important Note:** We provide tax services in addition to our regular duties. Our regular duties take priority over tax services and may cause us to delay or curtail tax services. If you have questions in reference to your taxes, take a look at [www.irs.gov](http://www.irs.gov) for useful information and tips.

**Do-it-yourselfers:** If you know the difference between 1040EZ and 1040 and plan to do your own returns but need a little guidance, then call ext. 2608 to schedule an appointment with our Legal Assistance Attorney. He cannot prepare your returns for you but he can review your work and answer those questions that are holding you back from filing your own return.

## VIEWPOINTS

January is nearly over, making it a good time to take stock of new year's resolutions we made in the afterglow of Christmas. We asked members of the workforce about their New Year's resolutions.

**By Mark Schauer**



### Seth Kenney, weapons

**operator:** My resolution was not to make a resolution. You're setting yourself up for failure—a lot of people who make resolutions do it about something they don't really mean. You might move forward for the first two months, but when reality and life set in, they get in the way.

### William Sanchez, artillery

**inspector:** Mine is to dead lift my weight: it is a combination of losing weight and getting stronger. I'm close now: I've been lifting regularly for about a year, though I used to lift in high school, too. I do it for fun now, but if I can get in good enough shape, I'd consider doing it competitively.



### Vince Czyzewski, video

**editor:** I don't have resolutions, I have goals, and I've been keeping them for the past several years. One for this year is to have six-pack abs by summer: I'm going to work out every single day, but maintaining a six-pack is more about being disciplined about your diet. A low carb, high protein diet is the key.

## CHAPLAIN'S CORNER

# Let God clean our lives up in 2016

**By Chaplain Steven Smith**

Most of us do a great job organizing our lives the way that we like it. But, have you ever thought that if you let Jesus in, you could let go of all the burden of cleaning up by yourself? We (you notice I said we) will be able to see the clutter that has been there for years that WE walk by every day and never notice because it has been there for so long. It's all that you know life to be, but it doesn't mean that's all that there is. It's amazing how airy and bright a room can become when cleared out. You'd be amazed!"

Let's start this New Year with a house cleaning of the heart. It's not a New Year's resolution, it's changing our lifestyle. If you'll let Jesus in, you will find that He is far more than just one more thing. In fact, He can help you sort through the things that are less important, throw old habits

away, get rid of the business for busyness sake, and give you focus and significance.

Jesus is not a God of the normal, balanced, comfortable life. He is the God of the abundant life. Abundant means more than enough. There is no balance when it comes to this. His love for you tips the balance. It crowds out all the other things you might be doing, because there is so much of it. That's what His love is for you... abundant... all encompassing... everlasting... But He can't give you the abundance of His love unless He can clear out space for US to receive it. There's a lot in our hearts, which is His home, that's crowding Jesus out. He can't even get in the door.

He stands at the door and knocks, will you let Him in in 2016?

Remember, the chapel has two services: Catholic at 0930 and Protestant at 1100.

# GEHA and BCBS to answer questions

Two of our carriers, GEHA and BCBS, will have representatives at Yuma Proving Ground on Thursday, January 28, to answer questions you may have about your coverage. The representatives will be in the conference room of building 2100 from 11:30 to 1:30 on Thursday, January 28.

If you have coverage with Government Employees Health Association or Blue Cross Blue Shield through the Federal Employees Health Benefits (FEHB)

plan, you are welcome to bring your questions and interact with representatives from your carrier. Again: Thursday, January 28, from 11:30 to 1:30 in building 2100.

**Please note:** CPAC staff cannot answer specific questions about what your FEHB, dental or vision insurances may cover. We encourage you to review the website for your plan and call the customer service organizations if you have further questions.

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# Tips for healthy living

**Submitted by Paul J. Kilanski**  
**Army Community Service**  
**Master Resilience Trainer**

Have you ever had one of those days that don't seem to go that well from the minute the alarm clock went off? Maybe you forgot your Common Access Card at the house, missed breakfast, lost your temper when someone cut you off on your way to work, sent an email response that you really wished you hadn't, couldn't concentrate on a thing at work, and then couldn't find the energy to go the gym.

Welcome to the experience of sleep deprivation. Research has shown that the effects of sleep loss have the same effect on performance that alcohol intoxication does. So, coming to work sleep deprived is like coming to work drunk if you look at just performance alone. There is also plenty of internal damage going on in addition to the outward effects we see with sleep loss. In fact, sleep loss has a ripple effect into virtually every dimension of health and wellness to include the physical, emotional, social, family and spiritual. It affects you biologically and personally; increasing your rates of disease and damaging your personal relationships and possibly your professional reputation.

Sleep deprivation can be a by-product of mission demands, of course. However, all too often we are trading sleep for that one more article to surf on the web, one more television show or video game, one more email, or one more drink out with your buddies.

Sleep loss also affects our direct job performance and has a huge impact on safety. During REM periods which occur at regular intervals throughout a night of good rest (not impaired by alcohol, caffeine, or other drugs), our brainwave patterns register signals that are very similar to those produced when we are awake and concentrating and we secrete growth hormone as well.

We are actually intensely concentrating and focusing for several hours throughout a good night's rest and repairing our bodies! Your brain, the center of all health, is exercising while you lie quietly in dreamland!

What do you think happens if we destroy the quality of that REM sleep? This list can go on and on but for starters, there is poor performance, inattention, obesity, hormonal imbalances, poor appetite, lack of normal growth, high blood pressure, poor interpersonal skills, no energy for the gym, and possibly diabetes.

## You put your family's health first.

## We do the same.



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