



THE OUTPOST

U.S. ARMY YUMA PROVING GROUND, YUMA, ARIZONA 85365 | VOLUME 50 NO. 26 MONDAY, APRIL 4, 2016

Outpost editor retires after 31 year career, though still loves her job

What's love got to do with it?
Quite a bit, actually...

By Staff Sgt. Tina Villalobos, 301st Public Affairs Detachment, Army Reserve, Mesa, Az.

People tend to connect certain times in their lives with songs, movies, and events. If you remember going to drive-in movies to see Ghostbusters, Indiana Jones and the Temple of Doom or Revenge of the Nerds---or listening to Tina Turner belt out, "What's Love Got to do With it," then you remember 1984. The bacon-double cheese burger was a new menu item at McDonalds at the time. A gallon of milk was \$2.26, a gallon of gas \$1.21, and a postage stamp was \$.20 cents.

Amid all this, Yuma Proving Ground welcomed a new employee on August 24 named Yolanda Canales.

It was hot that day, as are most late-August days in Yuma. According to YPG Meteorologist Mark

Hendrickson, the temperature peaked at 103 degrees. YPG was still on a 5-day work week, back then.

Before coming to YPG, Canales used her expertise preparing authentic Mexican food to help her brother with his start-up restaurant, La Fonda. After about one year, she received an offer to work as a GS-04 secretary in Public Affairs, and remained in YPG's Public Affairs Office (PAO) throughout her career.

Though retiring as a GS-12, success was not attained by taking an easy path.

"I've worked honestly and hard," said Canales. "I've had some awesome people along the way who have helped. I learn fast, and learned from the school of hard knocks. And I don't give up easily! I have had many good resources in this field (throughout the Department of Defense), and I've tapped into them when I've needed help or a little

push, now and then."

According to Canales, the opportunities for learning were among the most rewarding aspects of her three-decade career.

"In my work at YPG, I have had great learning opportunities, and I've learned a great deal about the Department of Defense and the proving ground's mission in testing every piece of equipment that our Soldiers use on the battlefield," she said.

Although she has valued the opportunity to learn---Canales remained at YPG (for nearly half of her life, so far) because of her 'family' of coworkers.

"I've known so many good people here at YPG!" said Canales. "We

have been like family. It was fun and I had a ball. I'm a people-type of person and there was never a stranger to me at YPG."



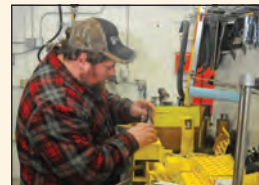
"There comes a time in life when you've got to let go, and it's time now," said Canales as she departs to begin a new journey. "I believe it will take me a short time to get used to the retirement lifestyle."

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Two decades of service leads to promotion

By Yolie Canales

Congratulations are in order for Yuma Proving Ground's Chaplain Steven Smith who was recently promoted to the rank of major.

Smith, who has been at YPG since 2015, was honored to have his wife, Susan, do the honors of pinning the new rank on his uniform and thanked her for her continued support as they traveled through both tough and good times.

Col. Randy Murray, YPG commander, has known Smith since his arrival at YPG and officiated the ceremony. "I've seen strong commitment to his faith, love for

his family and the strong love of people he holds and I consider him to be a servant leader," said Murray. "Everything you see in his heart and how he portrays himself is what you need in a chaplain and we're richly blessed to have him at the proving ground."

He advised Smith to always stay focused and do what is right. Achieving the rank of major is a tremendous milestone, he said.

Smith made a point of thanking Col. Murray, Command Sgt. Maj. Sean Ward and Gordon Rogers, garrison manager, for being great mentors. "I thank you for helping me



Col. Randy Murray, YPG commander (left) smiles as Sue Smith pins the new rank of major on her husband, Chaplain Steve Smith during a recent promotion ceremony. (Photo by Mark Schauer)

transition into a garrison chaplain and know that I have no plans on leaving the Army," he said with a grin.

A native of Marion, Ind., and son of a Vietnam veteran, Smith's 21 years of service dates back to 1982 when he enlisted in the National Guard. He served in Operation Desert Shield and Desert Storm, then spent nine years in the civilian

world as an information technology specialist before entering the ministry. After graduating from a seminary, he reenlisted as a reservist, serving as a Javelin instructor, a "total Army" training course instructor, and unit armorer. Smith holds Bachelor and Master's degrees in theology which he began to earn at the age of 35 and completed seven years later.

THE OUTPOST

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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
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Public Affairs Specialist: Mark Schauer
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EDITOR

FROM PAGE 1

The move to a four-day work week is just one of the many improvements Canales has seen in her 32 years of service.

"There have been many wonderful changes," she said. "Among the most significant is the growth we've experienced, which includes the main post, all the way to the test center side, and out to Kofa and beyond. Main post even has a brand new, state-of-the-art hotel! Back when I started, we came to work in those big old buses—but now, everyone can use VRide, and that's a huge improvement. Housing is another big change—the beautiful and modern housing for our Soldiers and families is absolutely awesome. I could go on and on!"

Having grown from an entry-level secretary to editor of the base paper, Canales has learned that public affairs is a laborious and time consuming profession, with much behind-the-scenes work, yet rewarding.

"The most challenging aspect of my work has been meeting newspaper deadlines," said Canales. "It's a never ending job, and you constantly have to have backup stories and photos ready. The Outpost is an extremely visual tool here at YPG, and readers look forward to each new publication. My job is to ensure it's out there in a timely manner."

Canales has always taken pride in putting public affairs duties first, and making her deadlines—amid family emergencies, illnesses, vacations, or any other situation. Canales went to great lengths to ensure the paper was completed and delivered on time.

"I never missed an Outpost deadline in all my 25 years as editor," said Canales. "Writing can be stressful, because every story has to have a 'hook,' or lead, that grabs the reader's attention—you truly have to

be dedicated to this kind of job."

With 'baby boomers' retiring en masse, Canales offers sage advice to prospective employees.

"The federal government offers many opportunities to advance," she said. "And there are many opportunities for training as well. It's a great place for one to grow and advance. Go for it! Before you know it, you are near retirement age."

As she departs YPG, Canales has plans for her future and for contributing to the local community, after spending time traveling and enjoying her family.

"My husband and I plan to take a three month trip to San Juan, Puerto Rico. Our son and his family will meet us there," she said. "Upon our return, I plan to volunteer at Amberly's Place and may consider substituting in the high school's administrative office."

"Most of all," said Canales, "I just want to enjoy life and stay healthy while keeping my body moving and mind active."

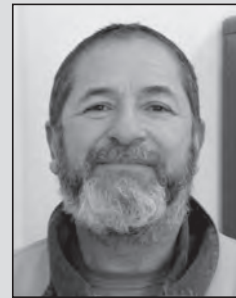
Although she is looking forward to new adventures, Canales knows she will miss those at YPG who have become like family.

"There have been some 'valleys and peaks' over the years, but, honestly, the peaks out-number the valleys," she said. "I had a good time making many, many friends I still stay in touch with. Some of them live as far away as Panama, Germany, Hawaii, and Korea, as well as throughout the U.S., and I will always hold them close to my heart. To those remaining at YPG, I'll always be here for you. To my wonderful and awesome Hispanic Committee members, you're the best—and my hat's off to each of you! You hold a very special place in my heart. To the YPG Public Affairs Office staff, we've had a ball: Chuck, Riley, Mark and Teri, I will miss each of you."

VIEWPOINTS

During the busy winter test season, it isn't unusual for personnel who typically work in Yuma to trek north to support testing in interior Alaska. We asked members of the YPG workforce participating in tests at CRTC what they missed most about home.

By Mark Schauer



Frank Mesa, test vehicle operator:

I miss the sand dunes and Mexican food. This time of year is the time to go out to the sand dunes, and I missed it this year.



Joseph Callahan, data collector:

I like it up here, but I miss the comforts of home. Living in a hotel for a long period of time can be a little difficult. It's been nice visiting with friends who used to work in Yuma and moved up here.



Albert Perez, data collector:

My family. I have four kids and a wife, and being away from them for an extended period of time has been different. I have a lot more time to myself. We got to go home for two weeks for Christmas, so that was good.

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YPG employees turn out to celebrate Women's History Month

By Yolie Canales

Observing women's history originated in 1981 when Congress authorized Women's History Week. Six years later, the legislative body went one step further by designating each March as Women's History Month. The tradition continues today.

Minerva Peters, Yuma Proving Ground's Chief of Staff, said that "Collectively, women have dramatically influenced our public policy and the building of viable institutions and organizations. From championing basic human rights to ensuring access and equal opportunity for all Americans, they have led the way in establishing a stronger and more democratic country." She went on to say that women have faced unique challenges in public service, but their ability

to use the art of collaboration to create inclusive solutions and non-partisan policies, as well as skill and determination, serve to inspire future generations.

With this year's theme in mind: "Working to Form a More Perfect Union: Honoring Women in Public Service and Government," guest speaker Dr. Lorena Jauregui, a family medicine physician for Yuma Regional Medical Center and medical director for the outpatient medical clinic, is one of those women in public service who has influenced women to pursue their dreams.

Jauregui, a native of Mexicali, B.C., Mexico, says her family made a path for her and strongly influenced who she is and how far she can go. She said growing up with limited resources made her stronger and more determined to pursue a medical



With their "angelic" voices, the YPG Girl Scout Troop #179, recite the Pledge of Allegiance with the audience followed by The Star Spangle Banner.

career. She encourages and supports women of any ethnic background to follow their dreams and to know they can be successful in any career they wish to pursue.

At the conclusion of the luncheon, Angelia Pinto, deputy garrison manager, stepped up to the podium. "Today, we honor the women of the past, those who stood up for change

and fought for the rights we have and enjoy today" she said. "We honor the women of the present, those in the room today, as well as women around the world who use their voices to make our world a better place, and the women of the future, those who will continue to champion women's voices and break barriers."



Col. Randy Murray, YPG commander, presents Dr. Lorena Jauregui a token of appreciation for the enlightening presentation at the Federal Women's Luncheon. (Photos by Yolie Canales)

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We've made it! - As Robin Williams once said, "Spring is nature's way of saying, 'Let's party!'" An early spring is coaxing birds, bees, flowers and humans to emerge from winter hibernation and enjoy the sunshine, as this photo shows right here on the proving ground. And as you travel Highway 95, the beautiful colors of the desert just take your breath away. Take time and see for yourself, "Mother nature at its best!" (Photo by Yolie Canales)

Rob Turner

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Computer parts fabrication serves CRTC test customers well

By Mark Schauer

It is vital that all military equipment work wherever in the world American Soldiers need it, and treacherous extreme cold is something American troops have had to contend with more than once.

U.S. Army Cold Regions Test Center (CRTC) is the Army's center for testing systems in extreme cold, and the active support of the test center's Allied Trade shop is crucial to carrying out this important mission.

Fabricating everything from replacement parts for items under test to specialized fixtures and adaptors necessary for test infrastructure, Allied Trade machinists work each day to make the items testers count on.

Until recently, these parts were machined on manually-operated mill and lathes. As the equipment aged, it slowly lost precision, for which CRTC's machinists had to compensate. Now, the shop is using a new Computer Numerical Control (CNC) machine that is significantly more advanced.

"We've been trying to replace the previous unit, which was about a 1992 vintage, for the past five years," said Kyle Anderson, test support division chief. "The bearings were worn out and it was very difficult to find suitable replacement parts. We wanted to replace it with something contemporary and able to do more complex machine work."

The most labor intensive portion of fabricating a part with a CNC is designing it in a computer aided design program and setting up the machine with the appropriate tools.

Once the design is loaded and the machine is cutting the part out of a piece of blank material, the machine is capable of producing far more complex components than manual machines.

to artillery. The nature of the work makes part failure inevitable, and downtime can be expensive, even when caused by failures of relatively simple parts.

"There's not necessarily a parallel

support: downtime for them can run in the thousands of dollars per hour."

In the interior Alaskan winter, the prime time for testing, weather and road conditions can make expedited shipping of a replacement part difficult, if not impossible.

"Overnight shipping is a three to five day adventure, with all things being perfect," said Richard Reiser, test officer. "Overnighting something may within two days put it in Fairbanks, and then we may or may not be able to drive there to pick it up, depending on the size of the item and road conditions. In winter, we don't have a lot of daylight, the large animals come out, and roads become an issue with slippery ice and snow for continuous periods of time."

Meanwhile, waiting days or weeks for a part to arrive could mean that testers will miss the coldest days that they covet for their missions: this past winter was relatively warm, which meant testers had to be even more flexible than usual to be ready when temperatures dipped.

"We have to be able to take advantage of the weather as it happens," said Anderson. "That requires a quick turnaround, which is definitely incompatible with long lead times for parts. We simply have to be able to make them."

As they design items in the CAD program, CRTC machinists save the designs for parts as they go, which makes re-fabrication a quick proposition. Further, a CRTC customer that already has CAD designs for their test item's relevant part can provide it to the machinists. Items that previously took days to



U.S. Army Cold Regions Test Center (CRTC) is the Army's center for testing systems in extreme cold, and the active support of the test center's Allied Trade shop is crucial to carrying out this important mission. "It's not common that you get all of these capabilities in a small shop with only a few workers," said Sam Porter, machinist, seen here. (Photos by Mark Schauer)

"We're already machining parts today that we could not do in the past," said Sam Porter, machinist. "It's been awesome to see."

Located near Delta Junction, Alaska, CRTC exists to conduct punishing testing on a wide variety of military equipment, from vehicles

between the complexity of a part you build and the impact it has on testing," said Porter. "Anything that shuts down testing is significant, no matter how small or simple. The primary focus is always keeping a test operational, especially tests with a massive amount of personnel

CRTC

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fabricate on a manual machine can now be done in a matter of hours: if the design is already available as a CAD file, it can be done in minutes, all to the manufacturer's specifications.

The CNC machine also gives its users a significant safety dividend: the tools and spindle that automatically machine the part are located behind plexiglass doors that must be closed for the machine to operate.

"The enclosures do wonders for us from a safety standpoint," said

Porter. "Not just for the operator, but for other people around the shop. There's really no way to get into this machine other than the front door, and it is set up to alarm immediately and shut down the spindle if the door is opened."

The shop is small, but CRTC test customers appreciate having all their needs capably and personally met by a single entity.

"It's not common that you get all of these capabilities in a small shop with only a few workers," said Porter. "You don't have to talk to a department head located in another state to get something designed and machined. The customers enjoy that about our support."



CRTC machinist Sam Porter prepares the installation's new Computer Numerical Control (CNC) machine for a fabrication project. In addition to allowing the crew the ability to fabricate parts more quickly and with higher precision, the CNC machine also provides a significant safety dividend over its manual predecessor: the tools and spindle that machine the part are located behind plexiglass doors that must be closed for the machine to operate.

—CHAPLAIN'S CORNER—

Easter is over, NOW WHAT?

By Chaplain (Maj.) Steven Smith

Before Easter, people would bring an animal without spot or blemish to be sacrificed as a sin offering. They would lay their hands on the animal, confessing their sins. The priest then killed the animal and sprinkled the blood on the altar. In this way, the sins of the person were symbolically transferred to the sacrificial animal, and the person was, temporarily, pardoned from sin. The important lesson to be learned from this is that there is a price to be paid for sin. The problem with this sacrificial system was that it was only temporary.

Jesus was the only human being ever born who was without sin. When Jesus died on the cross and shed his blood, it was for a divine purpose, and that divine purpose was to provide us - YOU and ME - forgiveness for our sins. No longer must we offer a sin offering,

because Jesus Christ paid the price - Jesus died in my place, Jesus died in your place. He was the propitiation for us!

I don't know about you, but I get excited when I think about what happened that first Easter morning some 2000+ years ago! The Protestant congregation of the Post chapel know all too well this is true of Chaplain Smith. You see, Jesus was brutally crucified, nailed to that old rugged cross, and there He hung suspended between heaven and earth.

The Devil thought he had silenced God once and for all. I imagine that all the demons of hell were celebrating as darkness overshadowed the land and Jesus took His final breath. I also can imagine the biggest party ever when they thought what they had accomplished. The disciples of Jesus were shocked and depressed; Peter denied Christ, Judas

committed suicide, and the other disciples were scattered or watched from a safe distance.

In great pain and agony, Jesus uttered His last words: "It is finished. Father, into Your hands I commit My spirit." And with that He gave up His life and died on the cross of Calvary. Mission complete!

The earth shook violently and the centurion exclaimed, "Surely He was the Son of God."

After this, the soldiers broke the legs of the thieves hanging next to Jesus to hasten their death, but seeing that Jesus was already dead, they pierced His side with a spear, just to be sure.

The Apostle John tells us in his gospel that Jesus was then buried in a nearby tomb secured by a large stone and sealed. And if that wasn't enough, Matthew's gospel tells us that the Chief Priest posted a guard at the tomb to prevent anyone from

stealing his body.

On the morning of the third day after his death, Easter morning, a violent earthquake shook the graveyard as angels from heaven appeared on the scene. One of the angels rolled back the stone of the tomb and then took a seat on top of the stone. And by the way, they did not roll the stone away to let Jesus out, He was already out. The purpose for rolling the stone away was to show the public that Jesus was risen from the dead! NOW WHAT?

We now can be cleansed from our sins and begin to live a transformed life with Christ this day forward. Let's make a decision to serve Christ every day.

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Rugged outdoorsman a natural fit for test center life

By Mark Schauer

At U.S. Army Cold Regions Test Center (CRTC) near Delta Junction, Alaska, the most important attribute for a potential employee to possess is ruggedness.

Tasked with testing military equipment in one of the world's coldest places, CRTC's employees spend countless winter hours outside in the natural environment, in temperatures where nostrils can freeze shut and breathing actually hurts.

It's a tall order, and one that Richard Gardner, test vehicle operator, has readily accepted as a second career.

"I tried to retire, but this job suits me so well I thought there was no way I could pass it up," he said with a smile.

After 32 years working for the Alaska Department of Natural Resources, Gardner spent a few years dividing his time between a pair of homesteads in the vicinity of CRTC. He hunted and trapped as he had for decades and played rhythm guitar in a local band with bassist Dave Sutherland, who by day is the lead mechanic in CRTC's vehicle maintenance shop. It was through him that he learned about seasonal employment opportunities at the test center.

"They discovered me because I was a woodsman. I thought, 'What good is a woodsman going to do on a scientific test?' I found out there is a lot."

He took to his new job as a test vehicle operator for the Stryker Combat Vehicle very quickly. Though he had never driven a large military vehicle before, he credits his years of experience as a licensed pilot in helping him quickly adapt.

Likewise, his scientific inclination and outdoor ruggedness fit in nicely with his co-workers.

"He's been wonderful," said Richard Reiser, test officer. "His experience as a bush pilot makes him very attentive to detail and experienced in recording meticulous data to stay in compliance with regulations. Those two things add immensely to his skill as a vehicle operator."

"People here are very self-motivated," said Gardner. "Everybody brings a pretty amazing and diverse set of skills to testing. You've got brilliant shade tree mechanics and engineers and scientists, and I love that mix."

A native of southwestern Ohio, he began his career as an outdoorsman fresh out of high school, joining the Ohio Conservation Corps for a year, then relocating to Alaska in 1980. His engineer father and registered nurse mother had hoped he would pursue his love of science and conservation through university classes, but Gardner was more interested in experiencing nature first hand.

"I recognized I wasn't really interested in becoming an academic. I didn't want to work in a lab. You don't learn how to deal with -50 degree temperatures in a college course."

Seeing Alaska as an outdoorsman's paradise, he relocated to the state in 1980, worked with several entities within the Alaska Department of Natural Resources, and enjoyed a life of rugged action. In his free time, he eventually began to hire out his outdoor skills to interested parties.

"As a self-taught hunter and trapper, I realized my outdoor experience kept opening up

opportunities for employment in other fields. I was self-equipped and could get around, so I would be hired by surveyors and guides."

He was also in high demand as a guide for hunters looking for the hunt of a lifetime in America's last frontier.

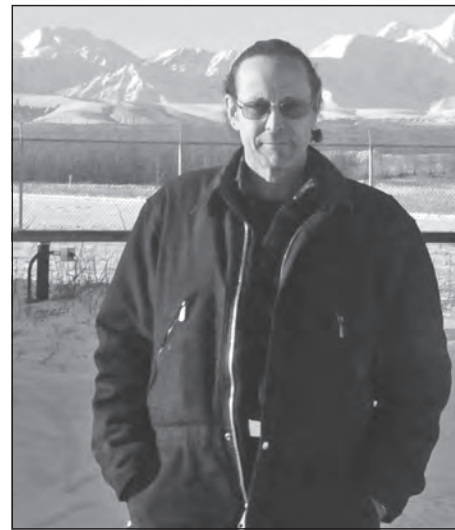
"The good clients were the ones who enjoyed the blueberries in their pancakes in the morning, the views, watching the wolves chase the caribou, with the bonus being getting something," Gardner recalled. "A lot of times they were retired carpenters who saved their money for years and years and had one shot to go on a hunt like this."

Not all of his clients shared his holistic view of nature, however.

"You had other people who were all about killing and only the size of the trophy mattered. Some people had so little respect for the land that they wanted me to do things that were illegal, and didn't care. That's what got me out of the business."

Married with two adult children and two grandchildren, Gardner intends to stay in Alaska for the rest of his life, and is remodeling his house with an eye toward his later years.

"People here are self-sufficient and



Richard Gardner has readily accepted a second career as a test vehicle operator after spending over 30 years working for the Alaska Department of Natural Resources. A hunter and trapper with a longtime interest in conservation, Gardner enjoys his work. "People here are all very self-motivated," he said. "Everybody brings a pretty amazing and diverse set of skills to testing: You've got brilliant shade tree mechanics and engineers and scientists, and I love that mix." (Photo by Mark Schauer)

very gracious," he said. "If you're having hard times, they've all been in the same boat you're in and will help you out. I could never walk away from that."

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CHIEF'S CORNER

By YPG Chief of Police D. L. Brown

Spring break is upon us and summer is approaching fast, which means teens and young adults will soon have more time to "surf the web," "Tweet" their friends and explore the vast world of "Instagram." This raises a question -- do you know who your children are talking too?

Talk to your kids, the experts say. So how do you do that? How do you get your child, who seems to have selective hearing and barely speaks beyond a grunt of acknowledgement, to talk to you?

According to experts, the 'what if game' is a great way to break the ice. This game involves asking your children hypothetical questions as a way to start a discussion. It gets you away from asking yes or no questions and instead begins a dialogue.

A parent might ask, for example,

what you would do if someone asks to be friends on a social networking app you don't know in real life? Here's another -- what if someone you only met through social media asked you to meet them somewhere away from home? It is suggested that a great place to have this conversation is in the car. Think about it... this way they can't run away and slam the door to avoid talking.

Another suggestion is that before you give them a smart phone, lay down smart ground rules. A suggested rule is "spot checks," which, when requested by the parent, forces the child to put down the phone so it can be inspected. Parents should not be afraid to go snooping on their child's phone or tablet. We should be proactive and monitor who our kids are talking to, what they're saying and what their friends are saying.

Social Media and Children

What makes this tough for parents is that teens and young adults use many different apps and websites to connect with people. This causes the average non-tech savvy parent to be overwhelmed. So, rather than becoming an expert on every one, know what apps your child is using, and then, you guessed it, talk

with them about it. It's all about communication.

For more information regarding social media safety, visit www.netismartz.org/Parents. This site is sponsored by the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children, and provides lots of information on how to talk to young people about this issue.

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