



THE OUTPOST

U.S. ARMY YUMA PROVING GROUND, YUMA, ARIZONA 85365 | VOLUME 66 NO. 3 MONDAY, FEBRUARY 6, 2017

YPG employees honored with prestigious award

By Mark Schauer

Robert Clark, aircraft quality assurance inspector, and Eugene Walters, test officer, were inducted into the Honorable Order of St. Michael at a YPG ceremony in late January.

With a combined 76 years of experience, the two men join seven other individuals at the proving ground who have received the award presented by the Army Aviation Association of America.

“The Order of St. Michael is for those who have had long-lasting achievement in the aviation field,” said Pat Franklin, pilot. “They honor significant accomplishment over a long period.”

“It recognizes dedication to the quality of Army aviation,”

SEE **ST. MICHAEL** page 2



With a combined 76 years of experience in Army aviation, Aircraft Quality Assurance Inspector Robert Clark and test officer Eugene Walters were inducted into the Honorable Order of Saint Michael in late January. From left, YPG Commander Col. Randy Murray, Clark, pilot Pat Franklin, Walters, Air Combat Systems Test Directorate director Grant Ware, and Directorate Technical Advisor Mike Diehl are all inductees into the order. (Photo by Teri Womack)

Instrument calibration vital to ensuring test reliability

By Chuck Wullenjohn

In today's industrial world, electronic measurement devices provide essential information humans used to make all sorts of decisions. From predicting the weather, analyzing soil, generating medical details, or repairing automobiles, accurate measurements are essential.

Measurement devices must be verified on a regular basis to ensure they reliably provide correct data. This is done through calibration by verifying the performance of an item and making adjustments to ensure it is within specifications.

The calibration lab follows established procedures for each calibration and makes every

SEE **CALIBRATION** page 6

IMCOM Awards
Ceremony
/Page 5



YPG Soldiers and
civilians recognized
/Page 8



Gowan Science
Academy class
visits YPG
/Page 11



ST. MICHAEL

FROM PAGE 1

added Grant Ware, director. "Their record epitomizes what this award is for: Their whole intent is to improve Army aviation."

Joining the Army in 1984, Walters repaired CH-47 Chinook helicopters. When his enlistment was up, he began working at YPG, first as an aircraft armament technician, then as that section's lead, and finally as an aviation test officer. Over the years he has distinguished himself in work on test programs that include the AH-64D Apache, the Hellfire missile, and the Counter Rocket, Artillery and Mortar system.

"I'm humbled," said Walters. "It wasn't something I expected: they had me completely surprised when I came in that day."

Clark, now the Aircraft Quality Assurance Inspector for the Flight Services Division, joined the Army in 1972. After serving two enlistments in uniform, he took contractor jobs at Fort Huachuca, Ariz., and then at YPG's Laguna Army Airfield, arriving in October 1980. He attracted considerable attention for creating an operational hazard report relating to compressor stall of the AH-1 Cobra helicopter that occurred when firing



a particular rocket multiple times in the heat of a desert summer. YPG's fleet of test support helicopters often require modifications to the standard airframe in order to meet the test mission, from specialized equipment racks inside to camera and

sensor mounts on the exterior. Each modification requires airworthiness evaluation and releases to ensure the aircraft functions safely, which Clark has overseen scores of times on multiple airframes at Laguna Army Airfield.

"It is the highest, most professional quality work I have ever seen, and aviation has a pretty stringent standard to start with," said Ware. "He is the go-to guy for everything that happens there."

Like Walters, the heavily-attended ceremony was a surprise to Clark.

"At the time you're really at a loss for words, especially when you don't expect it and have nothing prepared" said Clark. "But when you think about it, everything that you've done over the years is never stuff you did by yourself. In aviation you are always surrounded by other people, some with more experience and some with less, and with that mix you get the job done."

The Army Aviation Association of America confers the Honorable Order of St. Michael Award on those who have contributed significantly to the promotion of Army Aviation in ways that stand out in the eyes of the recipient's seniors, subordinates, and peers. "Their record epitomizes what this award is for," said Grant Ware, Air Combat Systems Test Directorate Director, of Clark and Walters. (Photo by Teri Womack)

"Many people helped me get where I am now," added Walters. "A lot of folks downrange worked long hours, 16-hour days sometimes, six days a week."

Franklin, who has known both men professionally for over 30 years, nominated both for the prestigious award.

"They're great guys," said Franklin. "Bob has forgotten more stuff than I'll ever learn. Gene is a hard-charger who is always eager to learn and always takes the opportunity to delve deeper than what is required of him. He has grown and developed into a subject matter expert in a lot of areas that have to do with aviation ordnance and weapons systems: He's actually asked for by name by customers."

THE OUTPOST

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Shoot'in the Breeze

Somebody has to do it...

By David J. Horn

For people who live up in the cold country, the colder or nastier it gets, the more it seems to get their blood pumping.

People get excited to drive through 10-foot snowbanks in minus 40 degree temps to get to work. Coworkers greet each other as they arrive, then share their exciting personal stories of survival out on the roads.

The rugs in the hallways are lined with boots that have melting snow dripping off them. Coat racks are bulging with all the "thick" clothes that are hanging on them.

Men, along with the ladies, all have red noses and "cap hair." Dressed in sweaters and maybe hidden long johns, they spend their first hour or so tightly gripping their coffee mugs in the effort

to thaw their hands out. All the while, empowered in the understanding that the eyes of the nation are upon them, viewing them as one tough bunch of folks to be able to take the worst Mother Nature can dish out, and emerge triumphant.

And then you've got us Yuma folks, surviving all that Mother Nature dishes out at us during our winters, here in the desert southwest. Hey, all winter long we have to wear our winter coats, gloves, and hats, too! Does it really matter that we're wearing all that stuff when the temperature is 50°F...above zero?

Does it really matter that we are surrounded by winter visitors running

around in shorts and flip flops?

Here in Yuma, our winter season kicks off in early October, when the temperature of the water in our swimming pools drops below 85° and we have to board them up for the season. Then in November, we notice that our Bermuda grass goes dormant. Finally, we get to that point where we have to sit up, and with resolute commitment, grab that lever on the dash of our cars, hold our breath (because we know there's going to be a brief dust storm), and if it's not stuck, slide it over from "MAX A/C" to "HEAT!!"

Once winter really sets in, just like up north, Yuma people get in the groove of just dealing with it. We just



Motorcyclists just know that they will probably have to wear their chaps. People sitting on those concrete slab bleachers at the Saturday night stock car races just know that either they bring a pad to sit on, or they're going to have to deal with the certainty of some serious heat transfer.

Sometimes my northern friends will call and ask me, "While we have blizzards and tornados and hordes of mosquitos and floods that affect how we live our lives up here, what kind of natural phenomena do you have down there in Yuma that really grabs you by the lapels and cramps your lifestyle?" After a long pause, I always give them the same answer... "Well, at night it gets dark and we

know that we're probably just going to have to wear a jacket if we have to stand out in the sunshine for extended periods on those cold mornings.

have to turn our lights on."

Yep, surviving winter in Yuma. Somebody has to do it.

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Tips for identifying and dealing with online scammers

- Don't ever send money. Be extremely suspicious if you are asked for money for transportation costs, communication fees or marriage processing and medical fees.

- If you do start an online relationship with someone claiming to be a service member, check the person out. Research the details of the person's story with someone who would know, such as a current or former service member.

- Be suspicious if the person claims he cannot speak to you on the phone or communicate with you through letters in the mail. Service members serving overseas will often have an APO or FPO mailing address.

- A member of the military member will have an email address ending in ".mil." If the person you are speaking with cannot send you an email from a ".mil" email address, then there is a high probability the person is not in the military.

- If you suspect that you may be a victim, contact the authorities as soon as possible and immediately cease all correspondence with the suspected scammer.

Report the theft to the Internet Crime Complaint Center (www.ic3.gov/default.aspx) or to the Federal Trade Commission. Your report will assist law enforcement officials across the United States in their investigations.

Online: <http://www.ftc.gov/idtheft>

By phone: 1-877-ID-THEFT (438-4338)

By mail: Identity Theft Clearinghouse, Federal Trade Commission, Washington, DC 20580

Be vigilant against 'romance scams,' scammers impersonating Soldiers

By U.S. Army Criminal Investigation Command Public Affairs Office

In today's digital age, one should always be aware that online predators and scammers are actively stalking their next unsuspecting victims.

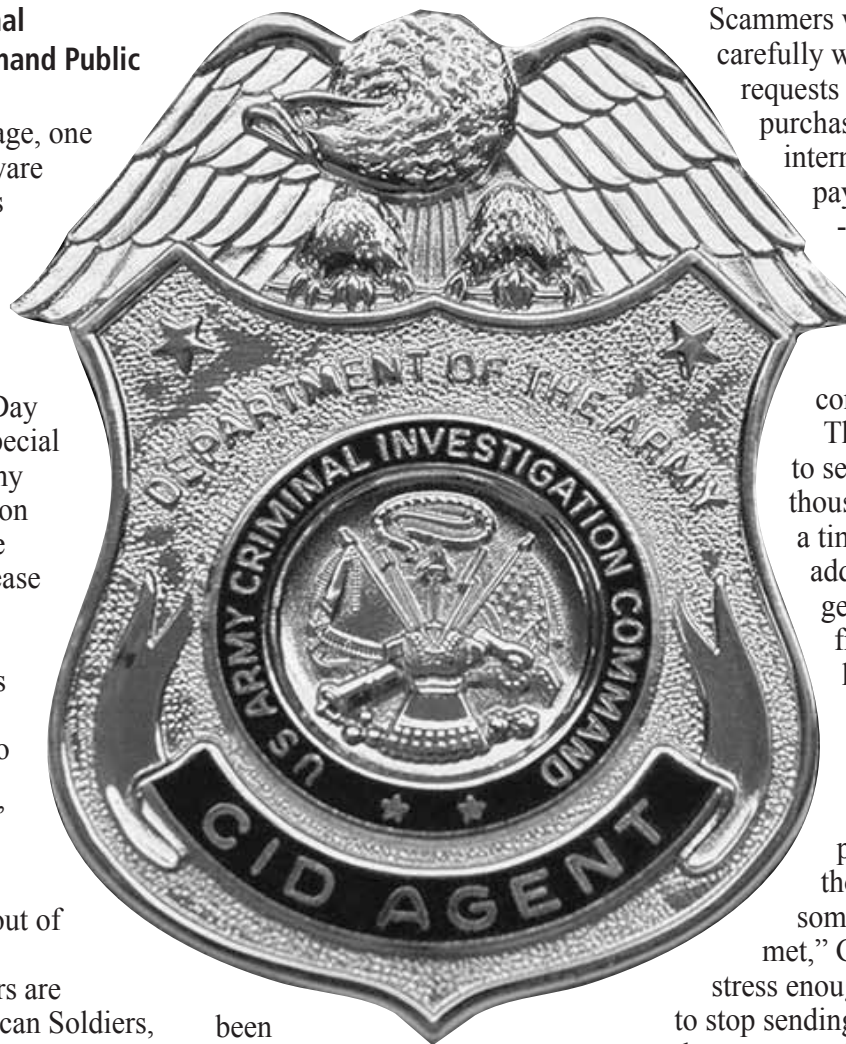
With Valentine's Day fast approaching, Special Agents with the Army Criminal Investigation Command (CID) are anticipating an increase in "romance scam" reports.

The scam involves an online scammer tricking a victim into believing he or she is "in a relationship" with an American Soldier and then hustling the victim out of his or her money.

"These perpetrators are definitely not American Soldiers, but they are quite familiar with American culture," said Chris Grey, Army CID spokesperson. "The criminals, often from other countries, are pretending to be U.S. Soldiers serving in a combat zone or other overseas locations."

According to Grey, perpetrators take on the online persona of a U.S. Soldier, enhance the online profile with photographs of a Soldier taken off of the internet, and then begin prowling the web for victims. The Soldier's rank and other details are often included in an effort to lend credence to the scammer's story.

To date, Army CID has received no reports indicating a Soldier has



Scammers will communicate carefully worded romantic requests for money to purchase computers, international telephones, or pay transportation fees -- always to be used by the fictitious "deployed Soldier" so the relationship can continue.

They ask the victim to send money, often thousands of dollars at a time, to a third party address. Grey said he gets calls every week from victims of these kinds of scams.

"It is very troubling to hear these stories over and over again of people who have sent thousands of dollars to someone they have never met," Grey said. "We cannot

stress enough that people need to stop sending money to persons they meet on the Internet [who] claim to be in the U.S. military. We don't want victims walking away and thinking that a U.S. Soldier has ripped them off, when in fact that Soldier is honorably serving his or her country and often not even aware that his pictures or identity have been stolen."

been criminally or suffered financial loss as a result of these attacks. But victims of these scams have reported losing thousands of dollars. One victim went so far as to refinance her house to help out her new online beau. In the end, she lost more than \$70,000.

**Next Outpost deadline
is noon *February 9th*
Sexual Assault Hotline: 920-3104
Report Domestic Violence: 328-2720**

IMCOM Awards Ceremony



ABOVE: The proving ground recognized outstanding Garrison employees at a recent ceremony, and Robert Barocio (center), emergency manager for the Directorate of Plans, Training, Mobilization and Security, was named YPG Garrison Civilian of the Year by YPG Garrison Manager Gordon Rogers (right) and Command Sgt. Maj. Christopher Prosser.

LEFT: Following the ceremony, Davis Tindoll, Director of the Installation Management Command's Sustainment Directorate, addressed the audience and fielded questions concerning the recently implemented federal hiring freeze and the future budget outlook. YPG commander Col. Randy Murray praised Garrison employees as the "backbone of YPG," words that were seconded by Tindoll. "What you do is important," Tindoll said. "You have a national treasure here." (Photos by Mark Schauer)

Rob Turner

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ABOVE: A citizen both of the United States and the United Kingdom, Calibration Technician Iain York is a native of Belize who has worked at YPG for eight years. Here he works with a signal generator to analyze the strength and width of a radio frequency.

BELOW: Roy Devine (right), engineering technician, gets ready to calibrate a load cell used in artillery testing, as Lorrain Cook, chief of YPG's calibration lab, looks on. Devine has been at Yuma Proving Ground since 1998. (Photos by Chuck Wullenjohn)



CALIBRATION

FROM PAGE 1

effort to minimize the uncertainty of the measurement. Measurement uncertainty is a calculation of how close a measurement is to the true value. Any factor that affects the calibration must be taken into account including connections, environment, as well as the technician's ability to repeat the measurements consistently.

Since Yuma Proving's Ground's primary mission is to test weapon systems and munitions for America's military forces, equipment calibration is a necessity. A rigorous calibration regimen helps ensure the quality of the tests performed at the proving ground each day.

YPG's calibration is performed by five people making up the USATA Support Center-Yuma (U.S. Army Test Measurement and Diagnostic Equipment Activity), which is located near the Range Operations Center in the Walker Cantonment Area. Headed by Lorrain Cook, a 30 year USATA veteran, the calibration lab has been supporting YPG for over 50 years. Cook says TMDE is very much connected to YPG because the work it performs fully supports the mission, despite the fact that the organization is technically a tenant.

"Many, many years ago, TMDE was, organizationally, a part of YPG reporting to the commander," she explained. "The decision was eventually made to separate us out to ensure we would always remain a neutral party that could not be influenced in any manner"

A wide variety of sophisticated electronic equipment dwells within the lab. These include calibration systems for performing calibration on multimeters, oscilloscopes, spectrum analyzers, signal generators, and much more. The huge variety of equipment calibrated for YPG testers varies from simple torque wrenches to complex microwave systems.

"Our goal is to use the equipment to produce measurements as accurate as humanly possible," said Iain Yorke, calibration technician.

To this end, equipment is frequently upgraded to remain on the cutting edge, either at the instructions of higher headquarters at Redstone Arsenal, AL., or on the recommendation of the TMDE Support Center-Yuma lab itself.

"Technology is constantly moving forward," said Cook. "We have to meet calibration needs here to remain fully capable at all times. We have no choice but to step up."

Like calibration labs elsewhere, regular inspections take place to ensure equipment functions correctly, operating procedures are appropriate, training occurs, and detailed record-keeping takes place. A group of inspectors spent a week at the TMDE lab early this year at which they examined numerous procedures and records, including watching people do their work. The inspection was concluded with a "no findings" report and the lab received an Outstanding TMDE Program Award.

"We maintain a huge data base and work hard at what we do," said a beaming Cook. "This kind of an inspection result is hard to achieve and it shows how seriously we take our work, as well as the technical competence of personnel here."

She estimates the inspection team will visit again in 18 to 24 months. If a critical failure had been identified, a return inspection would be scheduled much sooner.

Calibration is vitally important wherever measurements are important, and that's the case at Yuma Proving Ground, for it enables customers to have confidence in the results of their test programs. The ultimate beneficiary, however, is the American Soldier, who is able to have full confidence in the reliability of his or her equipment.

Safety Corner

Pedestrian safety

Submitted by Ron Van Why

The U.S. Army has had seven soldiers killed in pedestrian accidents so far since Oct 2016 compared to one during the same time period last year. Three were killed walking with the flow of traffic not on sidewalk, three while crossing the road (unknown if using crosswalk), and one walking against the flow of traffic but on the roadway.

We must remember that we share the road and you must take action to protect yourself while walking. Here are some safety tips for you when you're traveling on foot:

- Always walk on the sidewalk. If there is no sidewalk and you must walk in the roadway, always walk facing traffic.
- Dress to be seen. Wearing bright or light-colored clothing helps drivers see you. Reflective clothing is the best, but never assume drivers can or have seen you.
- Cross streets only at marked crosswalks or intersections.

- If crossing a multilane roadway, pedestrians should visually clear each lane as they proceed.

- If a car is parked where you are trying to cross, look for other drivers who may be pulling out and not see you because they are looking for traffic.

- Remember that telephone poles, utility boxes and parked vehicles block an oncoming driver's ability to see you.

- Look LEFT – RIGHT – LEFT in countries like the United States, where motorists drive on the right side of the street. In Japan or other nations where drivers use the left side of the road, look RIGHT – LEFT – RIGHT prior to entering the street.

- Give drivers ample time to stop before you enter the crosswalk.

- Crossing at locations with traffic signals helps motorists see you.

- Wearing headphones while walking, skating, jogging, bicycling or riding a motorcycle on post is prohibited. If you choose to wear

headphones off post, always remove them while crossing the street so you can hear approaching traffic.

- Always hold a child by the hand while crossing a street. Remember, walk — don't run.

- If the intersection has a pedestrian walk button, press it and cross when you are cleared to go, keeping in mind that all crosswalks do not allow the same amount of time to cross.

An area of special attention is Barranca Road. Most of you know that Barranca Road has a designated

jogging lane, in addition to being frequently travelled by vehicular traffic.

While traveling on Barranca Road please slow down and keep an eye out for pedestrian traffic, at any time of the day or night. The speed limit is 20 mph when passing joggers, runners, and walkers along Barranca Road.

As always if we can be of any assistance please do not hesitate to contact your Installation Safety Office at 328-2214 or our new office location, building 2091.

FY17 – 1st Quarter ICE Customer Service Roll Call

Congratulations to the following personnel who are recognized for their great customer service at Yuma Proving Ground. YPG customers were so impressed with their service, they submitted ICE comments.

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For more information contact Michael Darr at:
928-328-3090/michael.p.darr.civ@mail.mil

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YPG Soldiers and civilians honored



An awards ceremony was conducted late last month to recognize the outstanding achievements of several YPG Soldiers and civilians. The awards included certificates of achievement for support to YPG's half marathon in December, the YPG civilians (Mission and Support) of the quarter, and YPG civilian (Mission and Support), Soldier and NCO of the Year for 2016. (Photo by Chuck Wullenjohn)



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Recognizing **STRESS**

Submitted by Paul J. Kilanski,
Family Advocacy Program Manager

Stress. Everybody has it. The key is how you deal with it! How do you know when problems or pressures are too much? Learn to recognize stress before it builds up. Then learn how to handle it, before it handles you!

Are you stressed out? Worried about money, work, friends or family? Sometimes stress can build up before you know it. Take a look at these signs of stress. Find out how to recognize stress before it takes over.

YOU KNOW YOU'RE STRESSED IF.....

1. You eat standing up
2. Your dog doesn't recognize you
3. You're always late
4. YOU FORGET WHAT DAY IT IS
5. You have trouble finishing a sentence
6. Your friends greet you, "Hey, stranger!"

7. YOU'RE DRINKING MORE THAN USUAL
8. You're fighting more than usual
9. YOU CAN'T REMEMBER WHAT 'USUAL' IS
10. You do three things at once
11. You don't finish any of them
12. You lose your keys. And your glasses. And your patience
13. You only talk to people on E-mail
14. You're always tired
15. YOU CAN'T SLEEP
16. You keep getting sick
17. You keep dropping things
18. You bite your nails
19. You tap your feet
20. You twirl your hair
21. All at the same time
22. YOU FEEL LIKE YOU'RE DROWNING
23. You don't have time to feed your fish
24. Your blood pressure is too high
25. Your morale is too low
26. You jump when the phone rings
27. You eat. And eat. And eat

28. YOU HAVE A HEADACHE. AGAIN
29. Your palms are sweaty
30. Your heart is racing
31. You feel nervous and jumpy
32. NOTHING SEEMS FUN ANYMORE
33. You snap at your friends
34. Your socks don't match
35. You yell at your partner
36. YOU HATE GETTING UP IN THE MORNING
37. You drive too fast
38. You talk too fast
39. YOU CRY AT THE DROP OF A HAT
40. You can't breathe
41. You can't concentrate
42. You keep bumping into things
43. You can't see over the laundry
44. You're never alone
45. You're always alone
46. You live on coffee
47. Or cigarettes
48. Or diet soda

49. You haven't opened the mail in days
50. IT'S ALWAYS SOMEONE ELSE'S FAULT
51. People keep asking, "Are you OK?"
52. YOU WONDER IF YOU'RE OK.

Do any of these signs of stress sound familiar? If so, take these steps to control stress before it controls you!

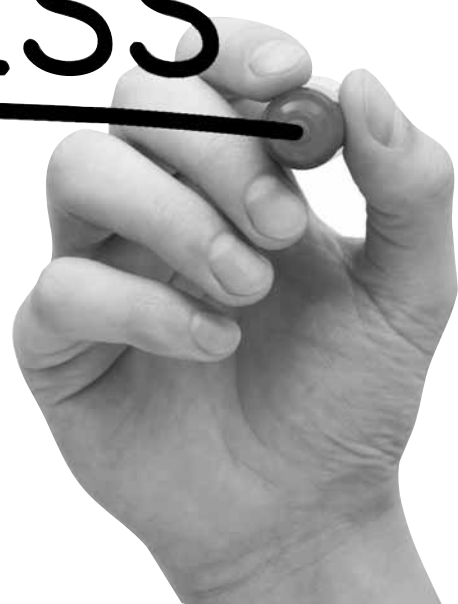
PLAN AHEAD-Allow more time when planning daily activities. Being too busy can lead to stress.

DON'T SWEAT THE SMALL STUFF-Shrug off minor problems like bad traffic or rude people. They are not worth it!

TAKE CARE OF YOURSELF-Get plenty of rest. Eat well. Exercise. You'll feel better and handle stress better too.

LEARN TO RELAX-Breathe slowly in and out. Stretch. Take a warm bath. Meditate. Do activities that help you let go of stress.

ASK FOR HELP-Share your problems with friends and family. Don't try to do everything on your own. Feeling out of control? Talk with your doctor or counselor.



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Gowan Science Academy first-grade class visits YPG



Test officer Carlos Anaya fields questions about air delivery testing from students from Mrs. Gordon's first grade class at Gowan Science Academy, who visited the proving ground in late January. In addition to getting to try on parachutes, the youngsters also saw a weather balloon demonstration by YPG's Meteorology team and did a hands on science project at the Palm Garden Conference Center. (Photo by Mark Schauer)

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