

THE OUTPOST

U.S. ARMY YUMA PROVING GROUND, YUMA, ARIZONA 85365 | VOLUME 67 NO. 14 JULY 9, 2018

YPG NCO of the Year recognized at Yuma Flag Raising Ceremony



YPG Non-Commissioned Officer of the Year Staff Sgt. Avram Collins was recognized at Yuma's 32nd Annual Independence Day Flag Raising Ceremony on July 4th. Collins, a parachute rigger with YPG's Airborne Test Force, has been at the post for about a year. "The mission at YPG is amazing," he said. "I really love the opportunities and professional growth it provides." (Photo by Mark Schauer)

International alliance tests intelligence surveillance and reconnaissance on YPG ranges

By Chuck Wullenjohn

A major event held by the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) occurs every two years, with the most recent taking place in late June. Significant activities during the over one week-long event occurred at U.S. Army Yuma Proving Ground (YPG) and Marine Corps Air Station (MCAS) Yuma.

NATO has officially dubbed the trial "Unified Vision." It is the premier NATO event at which various powers making up the organization test joint intelligence surveillance and reconnaissance activities. While it took place in a number of NATO countries spanning thousands of miles, challenges ranged from conventional threats to the fight against

SEE **ALLIANCE** page 5

Test officers
coach young
wrestlers

/Page 7



Largest Vacation
Bible School in
recent memory

/Page 8



YTC Commander
keynotes Yuma 50
annual dinner

/Page 11



YPG security posture improved

By Vince Avanzini,
Physical Security Branch chief

Yuma Proving Ground (YPG) has recently bolstered our already-robust security posture. One of the latest changes is the installation of 'Dragon's Teeth,' better known as traffic spikes, and additional security cameras at all our access control points (ACPs).

The spikes are installed at all of our outbound lanes on YPG to prevent rear entry onto our installation by those that might want to do us harm.

All one needs to do is pick up a newspaper or turn on a television to see that we live in a dangerous world. It is the intent of the leadership of this Command to further improve the security posture on YPG to protect our personnel, families, and way of life.

Traffic spikes are used in a multitude of locations around the

world. You have probably seen them at airports and car rental agencies, among other places. It is important that all YPG personnel adhere to the maximum five miles per hour speed limit when negotiating the spikes, and approach them straight-on, not at an angle. Never back up or roll your vehicle back on the spikes.

Once the spikes are negotiated, drivers must move forward slowly and wait until the vehicle is completely clear of the spikes prior to accelerating. This will prevent any damage to the tires. If a driver pays attention to the warning signs when approaching the spikes, obeys the recommended five miles per hour speed limit, and does not back up, there will be no damage to their vehicle.

Thank you in advance for your understanding. YPG has been recognized for excellence in security

measures multiple times, and projects like this help us adapt to evolving threats.

Though these physical security

initiatives are important, our greatest security asset continues to be our personnel. Remember: If you see something, say something.



Next Outpost deadline is noon, July 26th

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THE OUTPOST

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News may be submitted to:

The Editor, Outpost, Yuma Proving Ground, Yuma, AZ, 85365.

Phone: (928) 328-6149 or DSN 899.

Visit our website at: www.yuma.army.mil

or email to: mark.a.schauer.civ@mail.mil

Commander: Col. Ross Poppenberger

Public Affairs Officer: Chuck Wullenjohn

Public Affairs Specialist/Editor: Mark Schauer

Technical Editor, Cold Regions Test Center: Clara Zachgo

Marketing Specialist: Teri Womack

Visual Information Manager: Riley Williams



Traffic spikes are commonly used to enhance physical security, and will not harm your vehicle's tires when negotiated correctly. Approach the traffic spikes slow and straight-on, not at an angle. Do not exceed the posted five miles per hour speed limit when traversing the spikes. Roll over the spikes without stopping, and wait until the rear tires clear the spikes before accelerating. Never back up once you have cleared the spikes! (Photos by Mark Schauer)

What you need to know about Water Quality Reports

By Sergio Obregón

Let's have another drink and talk about Water Quality Reports.

The Environmental Protection Agency requires community water systems, which supply homes or year round residents, to provide an annual Consumer Confidence Report, also known as a Water Quality Report (WQR).

The purpose of this report is to provide customers with information on the quality of their supplied drinking water. These reports are meant to promote consumers knowledge and awareness by providing educational material.

Since 1999, an annual WQR has been delivered to the water users of Howard Cantonment Area, which houses year round residents. As part of an ongoing water quality outreach program, we are providing a WQR to the other two non-community water systems on YPG; the Walker Cantonment Area (WCA) System that serves WCA and Laguna Army Airfield, and the Kofa Firing Range (KFR) System that serves KFR, Castle Dome Annex, and Castle Dome Heliport. The information contained in these reports is specifically tailored to represent only those areas identified on each report.

As stated in each of these reports, the water delivered by each of our water systems is Safe to Drink. Specific information contained in these reports includes:

- Information about the source of the drinking water
- Information about the risk of contamination of your drinking water
- The minerals/elements found in drinking water
- The potential health effects of any contaminant detected above EPA allowable limits
- Educational information on bacteria and parasites that may be

found in drinking water

- Educational information on lead in drinking water
- Other relevant information about your drinking water
- Phone numbers of additional sources of information, including the water system
- EPA's Safe Drinking Water Hotline number 1-800-426-4791

For those of you who live out in Yuma, the Foothills, or other outlying towns/cities and are supplied water by a water provider such as the City of Yuma or Far West Water, you should have received an annual water quality report from them. The report is formatted and printed as a brochure, and normally delivered by mail. If for some reason you did not receive a report from your local utility water supplier, you can simply request it by contacting them. We encourage you to review and familiarize yourself with these reports as they contain informative and educational material.

We pride ourselves with the quality of our supplied water here at YPG. You may find it useful and educational to compare our reports with others from our local communities. You will also find that our WQRs contain more additional useful information than what is required by law.

The 2017 WQR brochure for the Howard Cantonment Area was delivered during the last week of June. The WQR brochure for the other two water systems, WCA and KFR, is expected to be distributed to consumers sometime in mid-July. Electronic copies of both reports were also delivered to the entire workforce via mass email. If you have any questions, or require any clarification on the information contained in these reports please feel free to contact Sergio Obregon, Safe Drinking Water Program Manager at 928-328-2015



YPG Commander Col. Ross Poppenberger (left) and Garrison Manager Gordon Rogers tour the water treatment plant at YPG's Howard Cantonment Area. Over 2,000 personnel and hundreds of residents depend on YPG's extensive water supply for clean drinking water, fire suppression, and evaporative cooling in summer. (US Army photo)

or by email at sergio.obregon.civ@mail.mil. Contact information is also contained in the referenced reports. We hope you find the information in the WQRs both informative and helpful.

Our continuing commitment is to keep you informed and to respond to any questions you may have regarding the drinking water supplied

by YPG. We will continue to provide future articles that will provide additional information about our water resources.

For a comprehensive overview on information related to safe drinking water, including information on applicable federal rules, please visit the EPA webpage at: <https://www.epa.gov/sdwa>

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Shootin' the Breeze Before its time?

By David J. Horn

One of the first things people see when they first visit YPG, is our new Visitor's Center. Located off Imperial Dam Road, the building is surrounded by several historic armored vehicles and artillery pieces, along with pictures and informational plaques.

Walking around looking at the M60 tank, the M109 self-propelled howitzer, and especially the M247 Sergeant York air defense vehicle, is especially interesting for me since I worked on designing parts for those vehicles back in the 1970s and early 1980s. Yep, it makes you feel really young when you realize that equipment you helped design...is now sitting in a museum. Anyway, for those that don't know the story behind the M247...pull up a chair. You just can't make this stuff up.

Back in the 1970s, the Army thought that the next big battle would be fighting the Russians as they came pouring through Germany's Fulda Gap. In 1981, by the time our new M1 Abrams tanks and M2 Bradley fighting vehicles were being fielded, military planners were worried about protecting those vehicles against Russian helicopters. If only we could come up with a way to shoot down those helicopters. Then, after someone noticed that we had park-

ing lots full of old 1950s-era M48 tanks, somebody came up with the idea of taking the turret off the M48 tank, and replacing it with a turret that housed twin 40-mm anti-aircraft guns guided by a state-of-the-art radar and fire control system. It would be the perfect Russian helicopter killing machine as it accompanied the new M1s and Bradleys on that future battlefield.

My involvement in the project was to fly to California, where the primary contractor was located, to help design parts for a new auxiliary power unit (APU) for the vehicle. The APU would be mounted in the rear of the M48 tank, and would power the electronics and hydraulics of the turret, without having to run the main vehicle engine. If you visit the M247 at the YPG visitor center (it's easy to find with its twin 40-mm guns pointing straight up), check out the rear of the vehicle. Inside that large rear "doghouse," are the components I worked on.

Expectations were high for the new vehicle, as prototypes were delivered to Ft. Bliss, Texas, where the performance firing tests were to be conducted. That's when things took a strange turn. In spite of the radar system being based on the proven system in the F-16 Fighter plane, the vehicle just would not lock on to the



The M247 Sgt. York self-propelled anti-aircraft gun on display in front of YPG's Visitor Control Center was tested extensively in the early 1980s, but was never fielded. (US Army photo)

helicopters flying around the range in front of the vehicle. Even putting reflectors on the helicopters, didn't entice the radar to lock on to them. What it did like to slew around and lock on to...and I'm not making this up...were the exhaust fans (with blades less than 1-foot in diameter), on nearby porta-potties. Porta-potties placed by the observation bleachers for use by visiting Army brass and VIPs. At least during the testing when this was occurring, nobody actually pulled the trigger on the guns and blew up any of the potties. But wow...talk about getting caught with your pants down! Anyway, the media caught wind of the story, and the race was on to try to resolve the technical issues.

As it turned out, before the radar technical issues could be sorted out,

the aviation communities on both sides of the Fulda Gap developed helicopter-mounted missiles that could hit the M247 at twice the range that the M247 could ever hope to shoot down a helicopter with its 40-mm guns. So in 1985, as fast as you could say, "never mind", the M247 program was cancelled, simply overtaken by technical events. Oh well, at least as far as I know, my APU parts worked.

So here it is, 2018. The Department of Defense is spending lots of time and effort trying to figure out how to shoot down small drones. Small drones with blades no more than one-foot in diameter. Hey! Maybe the solution is right under the Army's nose! Or more specifically, parked right in front of our YPG Visitor Center! I'm just saying....

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ALLIANCE

FROM PAGE 1

terrorism.

People ranging from armchair generals to distinguished military professionals think of events like this as an “exercise,” but that is incorrect. The focus of Unified Vision is on technological and procedural interoperability between nations, as well as testing new technology – NOT training and readiness. This means that Unified Vision has appropriately been designated a “trial” rather than an “exercise.”

Joint intelligence surveillance and reconnaissance is a vital capability that provides NATO decision-makers with better situational awareness of what is happening on the ground, at sea and in the air. It is now more important than ever, as western nations face the most challenging security situation since the end of the Cold War, with multiple threats from the east and from the south.

The trial helped ensure that joint intelligence surveillance and reconnaissance assets from NATO and the Allies were able to operate together to counter security threats, as well as seamlessly coordinate numerous intelligence, processing, exploitation, and dissemination systems. The collected intelligence data was immediately beamed to NATO decision-makers, often in Europe, in a near real-time basis.

But these capabilities are only valuable when the information



The Unified Vision 18 trial recently held concurrently in a number of North Atlantic Treaty Organization countries helped ensure that joint intelligence surveillance and reconnaissance assets could seamlessly coordinate numerous intelligence, processing, exploitation, and dissemination systems. A centerpiece of YPG's support was the operation of an aerostat balloon that was able to generate and transmit key types of valuable electronic data, even to overseas destinations. (US Army photo)

collected can be understood and effectively shared. Lessons learned during the trial will enhance intelligence efforts in future NATO operations

There were many types of live data collection and analysis. Examples included:

- Radar data collected from surveillance aircraft;
- Imagery such as video and photo collected from fast jets and unmanned aerial vehicles and other assets;
- Facial recognition from participating armed forces through imagery collected;
- Human intelligence such as reports from Soldiers.

Both YPG and MCAS Yuma supported the event, with the Marines flying an unmanned aircraft over a collection of shipping containers

representing an urban area, and YPG operating a Blackhawk helicopter. A centerpiece of YPG's support was the operation of an aerostat balloon that was able to generate and transmit key types of valuable electronic data, even to overseas destinations.

Senior Engineer Quang Ho of

Project Director Aerostat says the aerostat balloons have proven quite valuable, for they are able to carry a wide variety of electronic sensor equipment easily configured to specific missions.

“Aerostats can always be up in the air, no matter the extreme environment,” he said. “They gather intelligence, talk to other systems and provide detailed, sharp video to Soldiers on the ground – all at the same time.”

He even pointed out that the aerostat has proven to be a successful deterrent to the enemy, for adversaries have well learned the lethal threat they represent.

“When tethered aerostats are flying, the enemy frequently reduces the level of activity in the area,” said Ho, “for he doesn't want to be exposed.”

Although the main portion of Unified Vision activities took place in Germany, hundreds of people were involved in locations around the world.

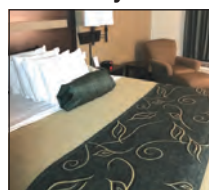
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Youngsters beat the heat in YPG-hosted math and science program

By Minna Hernandez

School is officially out for the summer but that does not mean that learning has to stop.

Yuma Proving Ground recently hosted the Gains and Education in Mathematics and Science (GEMS) program consisting of two separate week-long programs that YPG staff helped organize and support.

The GEMS program creates a platform in science and math

education for students to establish knowledge in areas such as coding, mechanical engineering, biology, chemistry, robotics, and team building skills. Labs coincided with the program to demonstrate to students how math and science are applied to real-world situations.

A number of YPG employees helped support the GEMS program with activities to showcase some of the amazing things done at the proving ground. The support team included personnel from the Combat and Automotive Systems Division, Munitions and Weapons Division, Aviation Division, Instrumentation Division, and the Metrology and Simulation Division, all demonstrating the importance of science and math to YPG's mission.

Among other things during the week, the young learners coded a Lego robot, raced radio controlled cars through an obstacle competition, and built rockets.

The labs were hands on and fun, and gave kids a relatable glimpse of what YPG test officers do on a day to day basis. For example, carefully and methodically gathering data on how different radio controlled car perform on obstacle course is akin to what Combat and Automotive Systems Division test officers do in the real world. During the rocket lab, each student built a rocket from scratch, learning about all the parts that go into a rocket and the pieces that make it run, which relates to YPG's Aviation Division and their work.

YPG test officer Daniel Sanchez thought the benefit of the interaction went both ways.

"At times working with my peers on high level situations, we get so focused on details that we might



ABOVE: Spc. Cristina Arguisoni of the YPG Health Clinic gives GEMS participants a tour through the microscopic side of biology during one of the program's hands-on labs. The GEMS program is an important part of YPG's growing efforts to bring to light the advantages math and science can give a student when deciding on a career. LEFT: Capt. Amie Linville, officer in charge of YPG's veterinary clinic, helps a student identify objects in a mock abdomen using an ultrasound device. The Gains in Engineering, Math, and Science program was geared toward future scientists who will be entering grades six through eight next school year. (Photos by Minna Hernandez)

miss some things along the way," he said. "Working with these kids, I got to take a step back and look at the big picture, and it was a refresher."

The GEMS program is an important part of YPG's growing efforts to bring to light the advantages math and science can give a student when deciding on a career, showing students the huge career opportunity in their own back yard.

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Test officers teach young wrestlers to never, ever give up

By Mark Schauer

Brothers Arturo and Carlos Anaya know more than a little about giving back to their community.

Test officers with the Air Delivery and Munitions and Weapons Divisions, respectively, in their hometown of Somerton, Ariz. they have earned widespread acclaim for their instrumental role in creating and sustaining the immensely successful annual Somerton Tamale Festival, which has raised well over \$350,000 in scholarships for local students.

This high profile annual event and their demanding day jobs would be more work than most people could reasonably handle, yet here they are, in mid-evening on a weeknight in a middle school gymnasium. It's late enough that the custodians have turned off the air conditioning for the evening. The air is stifling, and saturated with a humidity not often felt in the desert. Aside from the buzz of the lights high overhead, the only sound is soft talk from two men in the middle of a semi-circle of adolescent boys in gym clothes. The talk is indistinct, until finally, "Let's try it on three," Arturo

shouts, punctuated by a clap that reverberates across a wall full of championship banners dating back nearly 30 years. "1, 2, 3!"

The boys spring up into adolescent kinetic energy, fanning out into wrestling circles, grappling with a new move as the Anaya brothers look in on each pair's progress, giving on the spot pointers, encouragement and occasional fist bumps.

Above one of the gym doors is a sign that reads, "Never, never, ever give up," looming over the wrestlers going to the mat again and again. The same sign looked on the Anayas when they themselves were students here, members of the 1991-92 seventh grade team that won the school's first-ever city championship for wrestling. When they advanced to Yuma's Cibola High School, the wrestling team won its first state championship, and both Anaya brothers were runners up as individuals.

They played other sports, but wrestling captivated them the most.

"Basically, it's a sport where you don't need much equipment," said Carlos. "You don't need money,



Brothers Arturo and Carlos Anaya have served as volunteer wrestling coaches for the Somerton Parks and Recreation Department since 2007. The men, both test officers for YPG, wrestled in the exact same gymnasium as adolescents, and helped Somerton Middle School students earn a state championship earlier this year.

you just need to show up and do it, and be mentally strong. You have to just never give up: For some kids it comes naturally; other kids it takes years to learn."

Both brothers then wrestled at Arizona State University: Carlos for two years, Arturo for five.

"I think in one tournament we had to wrestle each other," recalled Arturo with a smile. "Our plan was to just go back and forth and put on a good show."

In 2000, Arturo placed fifth in the then-Pacific 10 Conference, narrowly missing a chance to wrestle for a national championship.

Now, for the past 11 years, they have volunteered as wrestling coaches in their old school through the Somerton Parks and Recreation Department. At first they did so exclusively during the summer months, but in recent years they have been a year-round presence. In their time doing this, the school has garnered at least three wrestling championships, including a state title in February.

"Throughout the years we had good coaches who gave us their time—baseball, cross country,

wrestling," said Arturo. "They were role models, and now we want to give back."

"Our parents always showed us service to the community," added Carlos. "They were always helping people, and that is what we try to do. This keeps kids off the streets, especially in the summer: Instead of wasting time playing video games all day, they get some exercise and learn a skill."

Their volunteer time goes far beyond the confines of the gym, or even the town. This summer, for example, Arturo took a group of 20 to compete in a tournament in Idaho.

"We fundraise," said Arturo. "We do car washes, we get donations from the community."

Where do they find the time to do all of this?

"We make time, I think," said Arturo. "We also have supportive wives who let us follow our passion."

"Many kids won't wrestle in college, but it teaches them that hard work pays off in the end," added Carlos. "It teaches them mental toughness, and hopefully that will pay off in their future."



Carlos Anaya demonstrates a move to young wrestlers as brother Arturo looks on. "Our parents always showed us service to the community," he said. "They were always helping people, and that is what we try to do." (Photos by Mark Schauer)

Largest Vacation Bible School in recent memory smites summer doldrums

By Mark Schauer

Religious services are as much a source of strength and solace to Soldiers as to civilians.

YPG's chapel serves both throughout the year, but has a particularly popular getaway for kids during the long, hot summers: Vacation Bible School (VBS).

"When we first moved here, there was Vacation Bible School going on," recalled Katie Randall, an Army Spouse. "It was nice because we were stuck in the hotel for 11 days and my boys were able to come here and hang out with the neighborhood kids. It was a great way for them to connect and allowed me to have quiet time with my daughter, who was two months old."

Randall was so grateful for the program that she and her husband, Sgt. 1st Class Joshua Randall, numbered among the 15 volunteers who helped make this year's VBS extravaganza particularly memorable. The Randalls helped decorate the chapel prior to the

event, then ran stations while the kids were present during the week.

"We had a bunch of volunteers who helped decorate rooms and put the stage together," said Sgt. Jamie Luna, chaplain's assistant. "You get to see people's creative sides, and it brings the community together."

'Lost at sea' was the theme, and most of the chapel complex spent a solid week decorated as an antediluvian wonderland. Hallways became under-seascapes reminiscent of the tubular hallways of an elaborate aquarium, populated by fish fashioned out of empty milk jugs and Saran wrap jellyfish trailing thin plastic tentacles. The pulpit became a palm-tree desert island, complete with large construction paper rocks. Even Wilson, the volleyball with a smiling red face who was Tom Hanks' only companion in the survival movie *Cast Away*, was present, serving as a constantly rapt and beaming observer of the proceedings.

It looked professionally done

and lavishly funded, but was actually assembled on a shoestring budget with the dedicated labor of volunteers.

"We did a lot of dollar store runs to budget it," said Randall. "It's very involved—I never knew how involved Vacation Bible School was."

The volunteers built it, and the children came: more than 50 overall, the largest turnout in a number of years.

"We had 45 total in kindergarten through fifth grade," said Sgt. Jamie Luna. "We had a big turnout for preschool, too."

The students of all ages had fun listening to stories, singing songs, and rotating among stations that saw them building crafts and playing indoor and outdoor games.

Throughout the hours, the smells of macaroni and cheese, chicken nuggets, and popcorn wafted from the chapel kitchen, manned by YPG Chaplain Maj. Ronald Beltz and several volunteers. Many VBS programs don't offer meals, but

Beltz feels doing so is essential.

"Serving dinner makes it more convenient for the parents to bring the kids," he said.

"The chaplain loves to feed people," added Staff Sgt. Michael Quintana, Chapel NCOIC.

The nourishment of body and soul was so well-attended that the chapel staff are seriously considering offering a second VBS later in the summer in hopes that new young congregants can take part and have fun.

"We're interested in doing a second one later in the summer, and keeping what we can," said Quintana.

In the event it doesn't happen, a lucky church in the Yuma community will likely have the ability to take possession of the remaining decorations. But folks here hope for a summer encore here at YPG.

"It's been a lot of fun," said Randall. "The kids really light up and get into it. They enjoy the crafts."



Staff Sgt. Michael Quintana, Chapel NCOIC, helps kicks off this summer's Vacation Bible School in the post chapel. Quintana is well known among YPG youth as a volunteer coach in several sports. (Photos by Mark Schauer)



YPG Chapel religious coordinator Margarita Perez holds forth in a session during one of the five-day Vacation Bible School's three hour sessions. The chapel also hosts a kids club and youth Bible study classes throughout the year.

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Chaplain's Corner

The flag means freedom

By Maj. Ronald Beltz

It is the Fourth of July.
An old veteran puts on his medals and makes his way to the park where Independence Day celebrations have already begun.

He is greeted by the inviting aroma of hamburgers and bratwurst cooking on portable grills, and the sounds of happy voices floating out over the grass on a warm summer breeze. The park is full of picnickers gathered around tables and sitting on blankets under the trees. Children are playing on the swings and slides, and chasing each other around the merry-go-round. There is a softball game on the diamond in the far corner, and splashing can be heard as swimmers cavort in the waves along the beach. A band begins to play patriotic songs from a stage which has been set up next to a statue in the center of the park. Later there will be fireworks.

The old veteran smiles as he takes it all in, and then he carefully maneuvers himself into a spot where he will have a good view of all the activities. He takes out a sandwich and a small thermos of coffee. Then he settles back into his chair to watch and enjoy.

After a while a group of young people comes by. They select a spot under a maple tree, not far from the old veteran, and spread an American flag on the ground. He knows immediately that they intend to use it as a picnic blanket. Anger wells up inside of him. How could they use the flag that way? They take out food and beverage and pass

it around over the flag. Then they begin to eat and drink and talk and laugh. The old veteran is not alone in his anger. Others nearby have noticed the young people and their flag. Murmurs of disapproval are heard all around. Soon a group of irate picnickers comes over to confront the young people.

One man yells out, "I fought for that flag! I will not see it abused like that!"

"Hey man, it's the Fourth of July. We're just showing the colors."

"Not like that, you're not. The flag is not supposed to touch the ground!"

The sound of their impassioned voices can be heard all through the park. People come from every direction to see what the fuss is about. Before long there is a large crowd gathered around the flag. The shouting continues, with both sides getting louder and louder. Someone goes to call the police.

The old veteran can stand it no longer. He rolls his wheelchair in the direction of the angry crowd. There are so many people now that those on the outskirts cannot see the flag. Latecomers are not sure what the argument is about. The old veteran pushes his way into the center and shouts, "Enough!"

The crowd becomes quiet, more from the unexpected sight of an old man in a wheelchair than the sound of his booming voice. Their eyes go immediately to the stumps that stick out over the seat just above the place where his knees used to be. And then they see the medals pinned to his jacket

-- the Purple Heart and Silver Star. They watch in awe as he raises himself up out of his seat with arm muscles hardened by years of pushing and pulling the wheels on the chair which is his home every waking hour of every day.

When his head is almost even with the faces of those who are standing over him, his eyes look down at the flag and he says, "This is not what it's about. It's what it stands for. Freedom. Freedom to choose. Freedom to be."

Then he lowers himself back into his seat, and as the crowd parts he wheels away back to his original spot. The picnickers go quietly and quickly back to their families. The young people continue their meal around the flag, and the old veteran watches and waits. Soon it is dusk and the fireworks begin. The dark sky explodes with color as rockets go up, one after another. Then comes their noise, boom, boom, boom.

Somewhere out on the lake someone sets off a string of firecrackers. Their ack, ack, ack hits the old veteran's ears like the sound of machine gun fire he remembers from the war almost 50 years ago. For a moment he is back in the battle. He hears the cries of the wounded and sees the faces of the dying. He comes to himself in time to see the grand finale, the colors red, white and blue emblazoned across the sky in the form of a flag.

"Yes," he whispers to himself, "for freedom."

What does freedom mean to you?

YTC Commander keynotes military support group annual dinner



Lt. Col. Timothy Matthews, commander of YPG's Yuma Test Center, was the featured speaker at the annual meeting of the Yuma 50 military support group in late June. Held at Yuma International Airport and attended by over 30 people, Matthews noted the exceptionally positive relationship the installation has with the community. "When it comes to the quality of relations military installations around the nation have with their outside civilian communities, we in Yuma enjoy one of the best," he said. "From the positive relations we have with our city and county elected officials to the constant supportive efforts of the Military Affairs Committee of the Yuma County Chamber of Commerce and the Yuma 50, Yuma Proving Ground is fortunate to be in such an outstanding environment. This stellar relationship has been noted for decades by senior leaders at the proving ground and we truly appreciate and cherish it." The Yuma 50 works throughout the year to support the mission and personnel of the two local military installations -- U.S. Army Yuma Proving Ground and Marine Corps Air Station Yuma. (Photos by Chuck Wullenjohn)

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