

Army Test and Evaluation Command welcomes new commander



PHOTO BY LAMONT HARBISON

During the U.S. Army Test and Evaluation Command Change of Command ceremony, Lt. Gen. Gary H. Cheek (right), director of the Army Staff, passes the colors to the incoming commander, Maj. Gen. (Promotable) Joel K. Tyler June 7 on Aberdeen Proving Ground. Tyler previously served as the Commanding General of the U.S. Army Joint Modernization Command at Fort Bliss, Texas.

By Lindsey Monger

Maj. Gen. John W. Charlton relinquished duties as the commander of the U.S. Army Test and Evaluation Command, or ATEC, to Brig. Gen. (Promotable) Joel K. Tyler during a change of command ceremony June 7 on Aberdeen Proving Ground.

A change of command is a military tradition that represents a transfer of authority and responsibility for a unit or command. The history, tradition, and accomplishments of the command are embodied in the colors. The passing of colors from an outgoing commander to an incoming commander ensures that the unit and

SEE **ATEC** page 2

YPG remains on artillery test cutting edge

By Mark Schauer

For most of its history, artillery testing has been YPG's core mission.

As artillery technology evolved over the decades, YPG remained on the cutting edge of testing guided and semi-guided munitions capable of hitting within mere meters of a target many kilometers away.

Today, the Chief of Staff of the Army has identified long-range precision guided munitions as the service's top priority, with aspirations of fielding systems within four years capable of accurately firing at targets 100 kilometers away.

In perspective, a currently-fielded 155 mm artillery piece typically fires at targets no more than about 30 kilometers away.

One critical component of the Extended Range Cannon Artillery (ERCA) program currently being tested at the proving ground is the XM1113 projectile, which exceeded 60 kilometers in a test conducted in late May.

"This is a fairly traditional artillery round, but putting a bigger rocket on it allows us to achieve much farther ranges," said Tyler Heagney, test officer. "Precision and long-

SEE **ERCA** page 6

YPG celebrates
Army's 243rd
birthday
/Page 5



YPG leadership
visits defense
contractors
/Page 8



A bright,
shining GEM
/Page 11



ATEC

FROM PAGE 1

its Soldiers are never without official leadership, represents a continuation of trust, and also signifies an allegiance of Soldiers to their unit's commander.

Lt. Gen. Gary H. Cheek, director of the Army Staff, presided over the ceremony. He highlighted Charlton's qualities as a leader and thanked him for demonstrating such leadership throughout his time in the Army.

"John and his 34 years of service have a great reputation across the Army as being a leader of great character, great talent... but I will also tell you he's a combat proven leader and innovator," said Cheek. "I think one of the things I really admire about him is he's able to take experiences from his previous assignments and blend those together with how to innovate and make it better at his next assignment."

Charlton assumed command of ATEC December 2016, prior to serving as the Vice Director for

Joint Force Development with the Joint Staff in Suffolk, Virginia.

Some of Charlton's highlights at ATEC include: successfully commanded the largest test and evaluation enterprise in the Department of Defense, which included eight subordinate organizations; responsible for \$5.5 billion in test infrastructure; served as a key advisor to Army senior leadership on all Army programs; provided independent test and evaluation support to thousands of Army programs annually; and led the way on implementing many initiatives as part of the Army's acquisition reform effort.

"Out of all the assignments I've had in my career, this one has been the most challenging," said Charlton. "This is a massive enterprise and the impact that this organization has on the Army can't be underestimated."

Charlton has been deployed to Germany, Kuwait, and Afghanistan, as well as serving in many stateside locations.

"I am humble and grateful for the opportunity to have been part



PHOTOS BY LINDSEY MONGER

Outgoing commander, Maj. Gen. John W. Charlton, presents his final remarks before retirement during the change of command ceremony. "I can't think of a better way to conclude my career than with this assignment," he said.

of this team. It has truly been a remarkable journey for me with this command. I can't think of a better way to conclude my career than with this assignment," said Charlton.

Cheek also mentioned Charlton's wife of 33 years, Heidi, and thanked her for professional service to the Army and volunteer service as a spouse of an Army leader. "You have really just been the complete package and we are very thankful for your service alongside your husband."

Charlton received the Distinguished Service Medal and Certificate of Appreciation from the Commander in Chief. Ms. Charlton received the Certificate of Appreciation from the Chief of Staff of the Army and the Secretary of the Army Public Service Award.

Cheek introduced the new

Outgoing commander Maj. Gen. John W. Charlton presents his wife, Heidi, with a Military Spouse Medal for her years of service alongside him.



THE OUTPOST

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commander to the ATEC team. "I know him to be a reasoned, thoughtful and a very articulate, capable leader. You come to this command with a reputation as a strong and effective leader who performed exceptionally well as the Joint Modernization Commander. The ATEC community welcomes both you, Stacy and Sophia to the team and we look forward to your leadership."

Charlton also welcomed Tyler to the ATEC team. "I can't think of anyone else that is better suited to do this job. Every day is going to be a challenge but you are going to love it here [ATEC]."

Tyler previously served as the Commanding General of the U.S. Army Joint Modernization Command at Fort Bliss, Texas. His other assignments include service

stateside, in the Federal Republic of Germany and the Republic of Korea. Also, he has deployed to Operation Desert Shield/Storm, Operation Iraqi Freedom and Operation Spartan Shield.

"It is clear that we are working very hard to accomplish that sacred task to ensure our decision makers have the truth about our weapons and systems that we test to put the very best equipment in the hands of our Soldiers and give them the competitive edge they need in tomorrow's conflicts," Tyler said.

Tyler noted the challenge for ATEC is to retain that reputation for truth and meet the demand to do that more quickly in the future, and "I look forward to that challenge."

Shoot'in the Breeze Keeping cool...

By David J. Horn

A couple of years ago, a reporter from the YPG Outpost newspaper approached a group of us out on the test range, and asked us what our first impressions of YPG were, on our first day of work here. My reply was, "Back in 1985, with \$2,000 and an old rusty Chevy Nova with no A/C, my wife and I decided to leave Minnesota and head west to seek our fortunes. The day we got to Yuma, it was 114°, a temperature we did not know existed on the face of the earth. I showed up at YPG, which except for the ROC was a collection of old tin buildings, wearing a tie. I no longer have the tie, the old rusty Nova, or the wife."

I still have fond memories of that old Nova (one out of three ain't bad). I bought the car when I was in high school, drove it for the four years while I was in college, and then for seven more years on the salty streets of Minneapolis.

By the time I brought the car to Yuma, it actually had no rust...only large gaping holes. The fact that the car had no A/C, plus the fact that it had a black interior, plus the fact that it was now in Yuma, turned it from one cool car to one hot car. And, I don't mean fast.

Anyway, I survived the summer of 1985, and another six summers after that, driving that old Nova around Yuma and out to work here at YPG.

When you drive a car without air conditioning, you have a sense of camaraderie with the other cars out there without A/C. You quickly notice them out on the streets, because their windows are down, too. It's amazing how much more survivable 115° air is, when the car is moving, as compared to when you're idling behind a stop light. When you drive a car with no A/C, you sweat a lot in places you didn't know you could sweat. Only speaking for the guys...those who drive cars with no A/C have to buy a lot more new shoes and wallets.

As bad as 115° is in the shade, what's worse is when something is out in the direct sunlight, as that item will be heated up to around 165°. Unless you park the car to keep the driver's door in the shade, those hot items will include your door handle, the driver's seat, the steering wheel, and the ignition switch, in that order. You're already keenly aware of the capacity of your body's evaporative cooling system. You try to minimize absorbing heat from all things you have to come into contact with, because you know your body's cooling system is going to have to deal with getting rid of that heat out, too!

Back in April, I discovered that the R-12 A/C system in my old 1993 Ranger, was toast. In the Yuma hometown spirit of "You drive your car until the wheels fall off, then you put on new wheels," I took the truck in to get the A/C fixed, which included converting it to the newer 134a refrigerant. It's back on the road again...with the windows rolled up.

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Low carb diet is intimidating, challenging and rewarding

By Chuck Wullenjohn

A surprisingly large number of Americans have been told by their doctors to reduce their intake of carbs. The problem is that the human body quickly turns carbohydrates into sugar, which is a no-no for a number of reasons. Just ask a diabetic.

Fortunately, the modern food industry has been releasing more and more low carb foods over the years, though high sugar, high salt and high carb is a grocery store and restaurant norm. It's easy to consume a vast number of carbs — sliced bread is a villain, as are rice and potatoes. Forget about eating donuts, cakes, pies, rolls, and most other baked goods you can think of. Even beans and corn are high

carb and off the table, and they are among my favorites!

Even such everyday staples like apples and bananas contain surprisingly high levels of carbs, as do some vegetables. Potato chips are ridiculously high, as are candy bars and most other manufactured snack foods. Fish, chicken and red meat are carb friendly, but some people avoid red meat for other reasons.

So, what is a person watching his or her carbs to do? Eat small portions and go around hungry all day? Forget about it and, perhaps, expire early?

My doctor informed me about one year ago that I needed to start watching my carb intake. He related horror stories of what

might happen if I continued on my previous eating path, so it caused me to do some soul-searching, as well as lots of research. I discovered that most foods contain plenty of carbohydrates, an unbelievable amount that quickly add up. It was a depressing finding, for it turned mealtimes into gloomy situations.

In time, however, I identified some good things that made the transition easier. Seafood, when grilled or baked rather than deep fried in batter, is quite low in carbs. I'm a fish lover from way back, so this was an encouraging development. I also found several low carb cereals I could eat for breakfast, and discovered that omelets and other egg dishes were

good, as is cheese. Canadian bacon and ham rated well, though they both have a great deal of sodium, which is a concern of many. Nuts, especially pecans and walnuts, are tasty and satisfying.

Regarding vegetables. I learned that those that grow above ground generally tend to be low carb and can be eaten freely. Below ground vegetables, like potatoes, require one to exercise caution. Avocados and cauliflower are great.

But the problem of baked goods continued to exist, sort of like a burr beneath a saddle. I had been an aficionado of baked goods for years, the fresher the better. What had always been, to me, the enjoyable staff of life, now stared me in the face as a problem.

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Low Carb Muffin in a Mug or Pyrex bowl

- ¼ cup flax seed meal
- ½ teaspoon baking powder
- ¼ teaspoon stevia powder
- ½ teaspoon cinnamon
- 1 teaspoon vanilla
- 1 egg (*I prefer egg substitute to reduce the fat*)
- Berries can be added if desired

Directions: Mix all ingredients, pour into a coffee mug or microwave-safe bowl that you have sprayed with nonstick cooking spray. Microwave 90 seconds on high. Eat while warm or refrigerate in a plastic bag. If you make several muffins, they can easily be frozen for use at a later date. If you use berries, cook a bit longer. The muffins made in coffee mugs come out looking like miniature canisters. The bowl muffins resemble normal muffins.

Fortunately, I came across recipes that saved the day. I cannot truthfully say that the baked goods

that resulted were at all equal in quality, but they were – and are -- good enough to provide a sense of satisfaction. Smear with butter (which is carb friendly), cream cheese or all fruit jam, they can even be called good (or at least not bad, for they are somewhat bland.) And they are simple to make. To the left is a recipe that can be made quickly in a microwave oven. Adjust as necessary for your taste.

The key to handling low carb restrictions is to do a lot of research, keep your eyes open, be flexible and open-minded, and be willing to do more cooking at home. One of the side benefits of a low carb lifestyle is that you'll undoubtedly eliminate weight from your mid-section, helping you to appear healthier and fitter than in years.

YPG celebrates Army's 243rd birthday

By Chuck Wullenjohn

U.S. Army Yuma Proving Ground celebrated the 243rd Army Birthday June 14th with a 5K run/walk that attracted well over 125 participants and spectators, followed by a birthday cake cutting ceremony. The sword used for the first slice of cake was owned by YPG's first commander in 1943 -- Col. George Howard.

The exact date of the birthday commemorates the date in 1775 when the Continental Congress authorized enlistment of expert

riflemen to serve the United Colonies. This predates the forming of the nation by one year, making the Army the oldest military service. George Washington was the first commander.

YPG Command Sgt. Maj. Jamathon Nelson officiated the ceremony, since one of his official duties is to be "keeper of the proving ground's colors." He felt the ceremony was particularly meaningful.

"We're proud to be the oldest

SEE **ARMY BIRTHDAY** page 8

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PHOTO BY CHUCK WULLENJOHN

YPG celebrated the 243rd Army Birthday with a 5K run/walk that attracted well over 125 participants and spectators, followed by a birthday cake cutting ceremony. In accordance with longstanding tradition, the first slice of cake was cut by YPG Commander Col. Ross Poppenberger; Command Sgt. Maj. Jamathon Nelson (also YPG's oldest Soldier); YPG's youngest Soldier, Private 1st Class Alesha Swart of YPG's Veterinary Clinic; YPG's oldest civilian employee, Gilbert Lopez of the Yuma Test Center; and the youngest civilian, Madison Symanski of Garrison YPG.

ERCA

FROM PAGE 1

range are the objectives.”

For the test, the projectiles were fired from an Extended Range Cannon developed under the ERCA project. Though capable of substantially longer ranges, the new projectile is remarkably similar to currently fielded 155 mm rounds.

“The prototypes of XM1113 projectiles being manufactured today use tooling that is relatively-close to what we would use once the round moves into production,” said Ductri Nguyen, lead mechanical engineer. “It would be a relatively easy transition, though there are some optimizations we could do for cost-cutting.”

The Hyper Velocity Projectile, another aspect of ERCA testing currently being tested by YPG personnel, has already achieved a distance that exceeds YPG’s range space. Methodical test fires of the new round are vitally important, and recovering the fired rounds for careful analysis even more so.



PHOTOS BY MARK SCHAUER

The most significant difference is in the round’s much-larger rocket, which pushes out more than twice as much thrust as the legacy system. Methodical test fires of the new round are vitally important, and recovering the fired rounds for

careful analysis even more so.

“We look for nozzle degradation or erosion,” said Nguyen. “There are insulators that protect the heat from intruding into the explosive; we certainly don’t want to raise the high explosive to critical temperatures. We also want to examine the performance of the rotating band we are using from the legacy system.”

Further, the XM1113 is designed

One critical component of the Extended Range Cannon Artillery (ERCA) program currently being tested at the proving ground is the XM1113 projectile, which exceeded 60 kilometers in a test conducted in late May. The most significant difference is in the round’s much-larger rocket, which pushes out more than twice as much thrust as the legacy system.

to utilize the currently-fielded Precision Guidance Kit (PGK), a fuze that turns a conventional artillery round into a semi-guided one.

“It is intended to be compatible with PGK, so we are designing it



Guided munitions are designed for pinpoint accuracy, yet safely testing them requires an enormous amount of range space. “In the development of smart munitions, you have very large safety fans because it’s not just ballistic anymore,” said Kermit Okamura, Munitions and Weapons Division chief. “With guided munitions, anything going wrong, from electrical to mechanical, can make it go way off-course.”

in collaboration with the PGK team to ensure this round will work with it," said Nguyen. "There may be some required modifications for one or both systems, but I think we can exceed our objective of meeting PGK's current accuracy threshold."

Guided munitions are designed for pinpoint accuracy, yet safely testing them requires an enormous amount of range space: YPG is the fourth-largest facility in the Department of Defense in terms of land area.

"In the development of smart munitions, you have very large safety fans because it's not just ballistic anymore," said Kermit Okamura, Munitions and Weapons Division chief. "If I shoot a rifled cannon, it's going to go straight and a little to the right. With guided munitions, anything going wrong, from electrical to mechanical, can make it go way off-course."

The Hyper Velocity Projectile, another aspect of ERCA testing currently being tested by YPG personnel, has already achieved a distance that exceeds YPG's range space.

"As large as Yuma Proving Ground is, we're running out of room," said Okamura. "It isn't just YPG, it's also many other installations in the Department of Defense."

As a temporary solution, YPG personnel have conducted two test fires at the Barry M. Goldwater Range, a larger facility south of the proving ground that is shared by the Marine Corps and Air Force and primarily used for operational testing of high-performance aircraft. The two test fires were

carried off flawlessly, but posed extraordinary challenges for YPG personnel.

"We had to fire on weekends to avoid a conflict with the Marine and Air Force missions," said Diep Ho, test officer.

Test personnel had to transport and emplace numerous pieces of large, specialized, and expensive test-support equipment, then quickly take it down and return it to the proving ground, a multi-day effort. For a variety of reasons, the Goldwater Range will eventually be unable to support the long-range test fires slated to take place over the next several years. YPG leaders hope to eventually be granted a special use permit for a small

number of test fires from a patch of completely unpopulated Bureau of Land Management-controlled land north of YPG's boundaries that will effectively meet the long range munitions' safety fan requirements.

Though much more ERCA-related testing remains in future plans, testers are excited about what has already been achieved.

"That we are effectively at least doubling the range of traditional artillery is pretty exciting," said Heagney. "Once we get this fielded, it will be really cool to put this in the hands of our Soldiers and have them even further out of danger and still hitting targets."

Testers have also been impressed with YPG's flexibility in

accommodating rapidly changing test requirements.

"YPG has been absolutely fantastic," said Nguyen. "We've made a lot of changes during testing—sometimes we have to change the test sequence on the fly based on the data we are seeing. YPG's test officers have been very accommodating."

"At many U.S. test ranges, flexibility is limited," added Steve Flores, Artillery and Mine Branch chief. "Here, because of our efficiency in conducting tests, we can schedule tests weeks in advance instead of months in advance."



US ARMY PHOTO

ABOVE: As a temporary solution, YPG personnel have conducted two test fires at the Barry M. Goldwater Range, a larger facility south of the proving ground that is shared by the Marine Corps and Air Force and primarily used for operational testing of high-performance aircraft. The two test fires were carried off flawlessly, but posed extraordinary challenges for YPG personnel.

LEFT: Though capable of substantially longer ranges, the new projectile is remarkably similar to currently fielded 155 mm rounds. "The prototypes of XM1113 projectiles being manufactured today use tooling that is relatively close to what we would use once the round moves into production," said Ductri Nguyen, lead mechanical engineer. "It would be a relatively easy transition, though there are some optimizations we could do for cost-cutting."



The Chief of Staff of the Army has identified long-range precision guided munitions as the service's top priority, with aspirations of fielding systems within four years capable of accurately firing at targets 100 kilometers away.

YPG leadership visits defense contractors



PHOTO BY MARK SCHAUER

A group of people from YPG, led by YPG Commander Col. Ross Poppenberger, YTC Commander Lt. Col. Timothy Matthews, and YPG Technical Director Larry Bracamonte, spent a recent day touring the plants of several defense contractors in Mesa, Ariz. that manufacture military hardware pertinent to test operations at the proving ground. Organized by the Mesa Chamber of Commerce, the visit was a follow-on to a visit a few months ago to the proving ground by the defense contractors themselves, along with local elected officials from Mesa and Yuma.

ARMY BIRTHDAY

FROM PAGE 5

military service, as the majority of any major ground combat operation falls on the Army's shoulders," he said. "We're not only honoring the people here today, but all those who came before us in the last over 240 years."

Nelson has served in the Army for 28 years and was enlisted in the Marine Corps for four years before that, so brings with him a great deal of experience. Though Army Birthday celebrations are the norm for Army installations around the world, and he has attended many, he wasn't able to take part each year.

"It depends on where you're at, so I've not always been able to celebrate," he said. "I've missed a few due to overseas deployments, but I've been to as many birthday runs as possible during my career."

The YPG workforce numbers over 2400 people, most of whom are civilian and don't wear the uniform. Nelson feels what they do and accomplish for the Army is critical.

"Civilians make the Army better," he said. "We at YPG would be able to accomplish nothing without the dedicated civilians we have. They make the Army strong by ensuring the products we send to Soldiers are top notch."

YPG Commander Col. Ross Poppenberger has 29 years of Army service under his belt and has taken part in an Army Birthday celebration each year. He has served as YPG commander for about one year.

The reason the Army was formed way back in 1775, said Poppenberger, was because national leaders wanted the force to move from a part-time militia to a professional Army.

"Today, we are the best Army in the world, bar none," he stated.

Regarding the role of civilians in the overall Army, they perform work each day that is critical to overall military performance.

"Behind every front line Soldier, there are fifty or more civilians," he said. "Here at YPG our civilians totally believe in the mission. They make sure military equipment is right so that on the front line it works properly and reliably, no matter the natural environment."

Today, the Army has about 467,000 active duty soldiers, with another 343,000 in the U.S. Army National Guard and 206,000 in the Army Reserves.

The Army's birthday was marked with celebrations, military balls and traditional cake cutting ceremonies held at military bases and communities across the country and at overseas installations.

Interesting Army facts:

- During World War II, supporting one soldier on the battlefield took one gallon of fuel per day. Today, the Army uses more than 22 gallons per day, per soldier.
- The Army has 158 installations worldwide; more than 132,000 miles of infrastructure for electric, gas, sewer and water; and over one billion square feet of office space.
- The Army owns more than 15 million acres of land across the United States.
- Twenty-four U.S. Presidents served in the Army
- The U.S. Army is the second largest employer in the nation
- U.S. Army Yuma Proving Ground is the largest single civilian workplace in Yuma County
- In terms of direct labor hours, YPG is the busiest test organization in the Department of the Army



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US ARMY PHOTOS



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