

Influential folks tread YPG ranges for first time

By Chuck Wullenjohn

U.S. Army Yuma Proving Ground hosts loads of visitors each year, but when it comes to private business decision-makers and influential congressional staffers, the number becomes much smaller.

The proving ground hosted 20 members of the Mesa Defense Alliance in late January, an organization consisting of local businesses, some manufactures of military systems, the mayor of Mesa, and staffers from a number of congressional offices. Though the visitors had stopped by other military installations in Arizona, such as Luke Air Force Base and Davis-Monthan Air Force Base, they were largely unfamiliar with the size and breadth of YPG's testing mission, which sets the proving ground apart from most other military bases.

YPG Commander Col. Ross Poppenberger assumed command of

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Cold Regions Test Center Commander promoted

By Clara Zachgo

Gina E. Adam, Commander of the U.S. Army Cold Regions Test Center, was promoted to Colonel on January 8.

Col. Ross Poppenberger, YPG Commander, welcomed the large audience to the ceremony saying, "I'm glad to be here with you all to celebrate this great accomplishment."

Several members of Adam's family were able to make the trip to Fort Greely, Alaska to show their support and offer their congratulations. Her mother, step-father, brother, and sister were by her side. Thanks to the internet, numerous friends and family from around the country were able to join her live on Facebook to watch the ceremony.

Adam, an Army Research Psychologist and member of the Army Acquisition Corps, has been CRTC Commander since May 2016. Prior to her assignment in Alaska, she held positions at the Army Aeromedical Research Laboratory, Army Research Institute of Environmental Medicine, Army Medical Materiel Development Activity, National Defense University, and the Eisenhower



YPG Commander Col. Ross Poppenberger (left) officiates as Cold Regions Test Center Commander Col. Gina Adam reaffirms her oath upon her promotion in January. Adam, an Army research psychologist and member of the Army Acquisition Corps, has been CRTC Commander since May 2016.

School for National Security and Resource Strategy.

As Poppenberger stated, "It's a significant accomplishment and you have a big responsibility on your shoulders as you go forward. And it's not based on what you did in the past it's based on what the Army thinks you are going to do going forward." When Adam transitions from CRTC in May she will go to the Army Medical Research and Materiel Command where she will become the Director of the Telemedicine and Advanced Technology Research Center (TATRC). TATRC is engaged in medical research focused on advanced medical technologies and is dedicated to bringing innovative telehealth solutions to the Warfighter and the military health system. While she is humbled by the

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Latest air-toground missile tested at YPG /Page 6



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PHOTO BY CHUCK WULLENJOHN Branch chiefs Eddie Patchet (left) and Kermit Okamura describe YPG capabilities with members of the Mesa Defense Alliance at a YPG gun position. Visits like this that go a long way in spreading knowledge about the extensive test facilities and national defense role of YPG.

Two dozen members of the Mesa Defense Alliance, accompanied by several congressional staffers, spent a full day at Yuma Proving Ground in mid-January, witnessing tests taking place, examining military hardware and meeting with test experts. YPG commander Col. Ross Poppenberger (above) had found since assuming command that firms in other parts of the state could benefit from proving ground assets but were unaware of them "I intend to continue getting the word out and, hopefully, bring some private industry partnerships back to the proving ground," he said. PHOTO BY MARK SCHAUER



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Yuma Proving Ground last June and quickly realized after discussions with Yuma community leaders that firms in other parts of the state could benefit from proving ground assets but were unaware of them. This tour took place as a step on the road to rectifying the problem.

"What I keep hearing as I travel around the state is, 'I had no idea that military capability existed in our own backyard," he said during the tour in reference to what YPG can do. "I intend to continue getting the word out and, hopefully, bring some private industry partnerships back to the proving ground."

Arizona is host to numerous defense industry contractors and manufacturing firms. Some are familiar with what YPG has to offer, while others are not. Some manufacture products sent out of state for testing.

Mesa Mayor John Giles, a three year veteran of the job, took part in the tour and felt it was a worthwhile and eye-opening exercise.

"Our city has a fairly large collection of defense contractors," he said, "and it's good to expose them to the assets of the proving ground. If we can keep them closer to home and build the overall regional economy, it's a win for all of us."

Giles is an Arizona native who has been generally familiar with YPG's testing mission for many years, but was hazy on the details. As he saw the breadth of YPG during the day, and the quantity and variety of important weapon system testing that takes place, the visit grew more and more in educational value.

"YPG is a huge economic engine, not only for Yuma, but for a large part of the state," he said. "To be honest, I thought YPG was somewhat similar to the Barry Goldwater Bombing Range, which is totally incorrect. I

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had no idea of all the jobs at YPG and the economic activity relating to the facility. YPG is very impressive."

Jeff Rogers, newly appointed director of YPG's Air Combat Test Directorate, who has been at YPG for 11 years, says tours like this are important, and not just for the broadspectrum purpose of building good public relations.

"We don't want to be hidden



Division Chief Ross Gwynn discusses YPG's aircraft armament and unmanned aircraft test missions with the visitors. At the urging of Senator John McCain's office, the visit was largely put together by the Mesa Chamber of Commerce and the Greater Yuma Economic Development Corporation, though a variety of organizations contributed.

out in the desert, with private firms, other DoD agencies, friendly foreign military services, as well as the American

Lt. Col. Timothy Matthews (right) helps Buchanan Davis, director of outreach for Sen. Jeff Flake, get hands-on with Soldier systems tested at YPG. PHOTO BY MARK SCHAUER

Yuma Test Center Commander

public, not knowing what we do or of what we are capable, "said Rogers.

He has overheard a few employees over the years grousing

about events like this because they were time consuming or a thorn in their side in some other way. He disagrees with these sentiments.

"Marketing YPG is part of the job," he said, "and something we need to do. Our mission directly helps the Warfighter by getting him or her the best system possible."







More than 50 YPG personnel attended an early-morning yoga session led by instructor Isis Garcia (right) at the post Fitness Center in late January. The event, entitled 'creating clarity and stability,' was sponsored by the post's Sexual Harassment Assault Response and Prevention (SHARP) office, which holds the popular sessions as part of its Healing Hearts program of quarterly events. The SHARP office seeks to strengthen the health and morale of YPG's Soldiers, Family members, and Civilians for mission readiness.



-CHAPLAIN'S CORNER-The Bible is full of interesting leaders By Maj. Ronald Beltz

Out of World War II comes the story of a platoon pp. 16-17) of American Soldiers stranded on one side of a mine field they had to cross. The commander came up with a plan: one man would walk across the mine field, leaving clear footprints for others to follow. If this first man hit a mine, then another man would walk across the field in his footsteps, until finally someone had cleared a path for all the other soldiers.

With their hearts in their throats, the young soldiers agreed to the plan. Which one would be chosen to walk the field first? To their surprise, the Commander began walking across the field. As their leader, he insisted on risking his life for the sake of his men. The Commander crossed the field safely. Following closely in his footsteps, all the soldiers made it across the field. (William Beausay II., The Leadership Genius of Jesus; Nashville: Thomas Nelson Publishers, 1997,

Think about some of the great leaders you have known and perhaps worked for- what made them a great leader? What qualities and personality do you think a great leader should have?

The Bible is filled with interesting leaders! Moses, who was the reluctant leader with a speech impediment; King David who was "a man after God's own heart;" and from the New Testament we have Peter, who "denied Jesus three times before the cock crowed!" All these leaders had their own flaws, fault, failures and sins-- but God used them anyways.

The same is true for you and me! You see, God has a purpose for your life! You and I are precious in the eyes of God! By God's grace and in spite of our own failures and sins, God continues to love and forgive us. That truly is amazing grace!

Exercise and stress

If you are stressed out, you probably know it. But did you know that exercise is one of the best ways to deal with stress? Exercise helps your mind and body. Stress produces chemicals in your body that make you feel edgy and tense. Your heart beats faster. Your muscles tighten. You breathe harder and your blood pressure goes up. Exercise reduces stress-related chemicals in the body. It can reduce muscle tension and take your mind off problems.

Choose activities you'll enjoy. The type of activity that will best relieve your stress depends on

your personality and lifestyle. If you usually do quiet activities, vigorous exercise may be best. If you are active, calming exercise may be better. Remember, one of the stressreducing benefits of exercise is that it's fun.

Use aerobic

exercise to relieve stress and help you feel energized. For most of us, aerobic exercise (the kind that raises your heart rate) is the best all-around stress reliever. Try adding aerobic exercise into your daily life. Take regular walks. Swim, jog or ride a bike. Turn household chores like mopping or raking into a workout. To get the stress-reducing benefits of aerobic exercise, work out hard enough

that you lightly sweat and vour heart beats faster, but not so hard that you can't talk while you are exercising.

If you're the type of person who is always on the go, calming exercise may

be a good stress reducer for you. Calming exercises reverse the body's stress response. Your breathing and heart rate slow and your muscles relax. Add calming exercise to your daily routine. Take breaks to stretch. Stroll around the neighborhood after dinner. Relax with a yoga video. Enroll in a tai chi class.

Some people find competitive sports like softball or basketball great for relieving stress. Doing these activities not only offers you a chance to exercise and socialize, but may also help take your mind off problems. If you find competition stressful, however, skip

> the team sports and consider a non-competitive activity.

Take exercise breaks when you are feeling stressed. Having a tough day at work? Take a walk on your break. Feeling hot under the collar? Go for a swim. Do vou like music?

Dance, dance, dance your stress away. Don't have enough time for your family? Take a bike ride with your kids. Try for 30 to 60 minutes of physical activity on most days. (Add up 10 minutes here and 10 minutes there to make your total.) If you can't exercise that much, don't stress out! Do what you can. Even a little exercise can help! Make stress-reducing exercise part of your routine. Stress causes many health problems. It contributes to heart disease, high blood pressure, accidents, depression and back pain. Some scientists think it's the underlying cause of as many as 70 percent of all visits to family doctors. Exercise is one good way to reduce stress.

Next Outpost deadline is noon **February 8th** Sexual Assault Hotline: 920-3104 Report Domestic Violence: 287-3361





By John Harlow

Brig. Gen. Vincent Malone assumed the roles of Deputy Commanding General, U.S. Army Research, Development and Engineering Command, and Senior Commander, Natick Soldier Systems Center, on Jan. 5, 2018.

The general previously served as Acquisition Advisor to U.S. Army Forces Command. Prior to FORSCOM, COL Malone was assigned as the Military Deputy to the Deputy Assistant Secretary for Plans, Program & Resources, OASA(ALT), Washington, D.C., where he served as the co-executive of the Equipping and Sustaining Program Evaluation Groups (PEGs) responsible for overseeing the planning, programming, budgeting and execution of all associated funding.

He is a 1989 graduate of the U.S. Military Academy and was commissioned in the Infantry. His military education includes the Infantry Officer Basic and Advanced Courses, Command and General Staff College, and Senior Service College. He holds a Master of Science degree in Chemistry from the University of Colorado, a Master of Science degree in National Resource Strategy from

the National Defense University, and is a graduate of the Defense Acquisition University Executive Program Manager's Course. The general spent

In this 2009 photo, then-Lt. Col. Vincent Malone observes a test in progress on CRTC's range. Malone was commander of CRTC from 2007 to 2009.



Brig. Gen. Vincent Malone recently assumed the role of Senior Commander at Natick Soldier Systems Center.

his formative years as a Platoon Leader and Company Executive Officer in the 1st Battalion (ABN), 501st Infantry Regiment, Fort Richardson, AK. He was assessed into the Acquisition Corps following Company Command at Fort Benning, GA and an assignment as an Assistant Professor in the Department of

Chemistry at West Point. His acquisition leadership experience includes assignments as Assistant Product Manager for Light Tactical Vehicles, Commander of U.S. Army Cold Regions Test Center, and Project Manager for Training Devices. He has also served in a variety of HQDA staff positions as a Systems Coordinator, Legislative Liaison, Executive Officer, and Portfolio Director. In addition to his recent acquisition experience, he deployed as the Chief of Plans and Integration, ARCENT Support Element --Afghanistan.

His awards and decorations include the Legion of Merit, Bronze Star, Meritorious Service Medal, the Army Commendation Medal, the Army Achievement Medal, the Army Staff Identification Badge, the Senior Parachutist Badge, the Expert Infantryman's Badge, and the Ranger Tab.



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amount of faith the Army leadership has placed in her as an officer, evidenced by her promotion selection, she recognizes the guidance and support she has received throughout her career.

"It is absolutely true that no one gets to this point in a career on her own," said Adam. "I am grateful for all the helping hands and leadership lessons I have had along the way. Along the way I have been fortunate to work with many subordinates, peers and leaders who shaped both my path and me as a scientist and an officer."

The newly-promoted Adam also recognized one person instrumental in her Army career: "Col. Sharon McBride is a fellow research



Following the ceremony, Adam receives congratulations from the large audience in attendance. "It is absolutely true that no one gets to this point in a career on her own," she said. "I am grateful for all the helping hands and leadership lessons I have had along the way. Along the way I have been fortunate to work with many subordinates, peers and leaders who shaped both my path and me as a scientist and an officer."

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PHOTOS BY SEBASTIAN SAARLOOS The newly-promoted Adam recognized Col. Sharon McBride, a fellow research psychologist who was the first woman promoted to colonel in their career field, for her mentorship.

psychologist. Over the course of my career she has been the lifeline on the other end of the phone. The person who talked me through everything from whatever was going

> on at work to career prospects and next moves. A mentor and a friend for many years, Sharon also happens to be the first woman promoted to colonel in our career field. So to Sharon, I say thank you for the years of friendship and for leading the way for others like me to follow."

> As Adam concluded her remarks she graciously stated, "It has been my pleasure to serve and my great honor to continue to serve."

> > Matt Fischer

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Next generation air-ground missile fires on Cibola Range

By Mark Schauer

Yuma Proving Ground has nearly 2000 square miles of restricted airspace, a vast and precious holding used to test manned and unmanned aircraft—and their weapons-- in all stages of the development cycle.

The clear, stable air and extremely dry climate where inclement weather is a rarity, as well as YPG's isolation from urban encroachment, makes it highly coveted for this type of testing.

Multiple tests can be conducted concurrently and without having to compete for runway and airspace with manned fighter jets as at many other installations.

One of the latest high-impact weapons systems tested at YPG is the Joint Air-to-Ground Missile (JAGM), which will ultimately replace the iconic Hellfire missile that earned fearsome acclaim on the AH-64 Apache attack helicopter. The Apache has always been identified with state-of-the-art sensors and precision guidance systems, as well as lethal air-to-surface missiles like the Hellfire, and, in time, the JAGM.

"It's much more capable against an array of threats on the battlefield,"

said Michael Kennedy, experimental test pilot. "That's what it's designed to do, and that's what we're testing at Yuma Proving Ground."

The highly complex JAGM test was a collaborative team effort between the Aviation Test Directorate (AVTD) from Fort Hood, Texas, Yuma Test Center, and Redstone Test Center. AVTD coordinated multiple efforts to assure a successful test as JAGM moves towards to its next major milestone, low rate initial production decision.

"The close cooperation between YPG and the Operational Test Command during the short duration was critical," said Lt. Col. Karsten Haake, Chief of the AVTD Rotary Test Wing Division. "Without the professionalism and the mission dedication of the YPG range support team, test completion would have been significantly delayed. This was truly a team effort."

Participating pilots give the new weapon's versatility high marks.

"One of the things that sticks out to me is the simplicity for the crew in terms of how they select weapons for their missions," said Chief Warrant Officer 5 John Bilton, the first non-





experimental pilot to fire the missile, a milestone that took place at YPG in the fall.

"Before, we had to put a lot of thought into. 'What do I need?' As soon as I launch, I don't get to come back and change out my missiles: In combat, you don't want to encounter a target you need to hit and not have on-board the right missile for the job."

The JAGM boasts the ability to use semi-active laser (SAL) or radiofrequency (RF) as a means of guiding it to target. Moreover, the crew can switch modes within seconds as a combat scenario evolves.

"Using a SAL missile, the last six seconds of the missile flight is the most critical to keep your laser sight on target," explained Kennedy. "If you're getting shot at and your line of sight goes off the target, your missile misses. JAGM can start off using the laser, then transition to the radar portion and still hit the target if the crew has to use evasive maneuvers."

More capable in adverse weather conditions and boasting a longer range than the older Hellfire, the JAGM can not only be fired and One of the latest high-impact weapons systems tested at YPG is the Joint Air-to-Ground Missile (JAGM), which will ultimately replace the iconic Hellfire missile that earned fearsome acclaim on the AH-64 Apache attack helicopter. The Apache has always been identified with state-of-the-art sensors and precision guidance systems, as well as lethal air-to-surface missiles like the Hellfire, and, as soon as next fiscal year, the JAGM.

retreat to a safer standoff distance, but also can be aimed without pointing the laser directly at the target.

"You aren't required to have your laser sight on a target to hit it," said Kennedy. "You can do an off-set lase to defeat potential laser countermeasures on the target and the JAGM can still find the target. That is a unique ability that will definitely be a game-changer on the battlefield."

"The ability to not have to put the laser directly on the target and let the adversary know that you are about to kill him is a tremendous benefit," added Al Maes, aviation weapons technical advisor. "Once you have the missile off the rail and encounter smoke or dust or fog, a regular laser missile could lose that target. With JAGM, I have a pretty good guarantee that I am going to kill that target with a single missile instead of multiple missile shots."

The operational testers appreciated YPG's vast ranges and variety of realistic targets as they put the weapon through its paces in a variety of situations and altitudes.

The operational testers appreciated YPG's vast ranges and variety of realistic targets as they put the weapon through its paces in a variety of situations and altitudes. YPG's natural desert environment also contributed significantly to the realism of the testing.

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"We're out here shooting at real targets," said Scott McLendon, operational test officer. "It's a real T-72 driving down the road, not a burnt-out hulk with a million holes in it sitting out on the range. To me, the real targets provided at YPG are really a value-added."

To make the testing as realistic as possible, YPG personnel installed remote-control kits on four separate target vehicles, allowing pilots to fly scenarios where they engage multiple moving targets at once.

"It's difficult and unique," said Kennedy. "Having real moving targets adds good operational flavor to the test."

YPG's natural desert environment also contributed significantly to the realism of the testing.

"In an active combat zone or engagement area, you have multiple targets, half of which could be burning," said Chief Warrant Officer 5 Scott Jackson, pilot. "The other half could be evading. Then you have wind shift and wind flow that could kick up obscurants and make it more difficult to determine a clean target set."

"We also get more battlefield realism in that we get dust as well as smoke, so we get a two-for-one here in terms of the environmental piece," added Maes.

Information gathered during the operational test not only validates the weapon, but also contributes new insights into training pilots on how to use the JAGM for maximum effect. Though the operational test is now complete, further developmental testing, including integrating new software to support the JAGM into the Apache will continue at YPG.

"YPG is way less restrictive than some other installations," said McLendon. "We can put the missile through all the parameters we need to, including high-altitude shots. It's really user-friendly here."



The JAGM boasts the ability to use semi-active laser (SAL) or radiofrequency (RF) as a means of guiding it to target. Moreover, the crew can switch modes within seconds as a combat scenario evolves. More capable in adverse weather conditions and boasting a longer range than the older Hellfire, the JAGM can not only be fired and retreat to a safer standoff distance, but also can be aimed without pointing the laser directly at the target.



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Living with coyotes

Submitted by Laura Merrill

If there is a born survivor among mammals, it must be the coyote. After all, this animal has thrived and expanded its range despite decades of devoted efforts to eradicate it from urban and agricultural areas. Coyotes exist in every state except Hawaii and have learned to coexist with humans in more and more cities and towns.

Audiences at community meetings held when coyotes are observed in a neighborhood or when a few cats mysteriously disappear are usually divided into coyote lovers and coyote haters. Each side is insistent about whether the coyotes should stay or go. Yet when all is said and done, the only possible resolution to this conflict is for us to learn to coexist with the coyote.

Experience has demonstrated that

if a habitat will support coyotes, coyotes will occupy it. When widespread eradication efforts reduce coyote numbers, the coyote population responds by producing larger litters and breeding at an earlier age. Within a few years, populations decimated by poisons, traps and aerial hunting recover to levels equal to, or higher than, those that existed before the eradication attempts were made. On Yuma Proving Ground, coyotes thrive because food is plentiful and natural predators are few. Removal efforts are doomed to fail. Fortunately, living with coyotes is not difficult. It all boils down to a few simple actions:

Don't give coyotes an easy meal by leaving out food or water for pets, unprotected garbage, or small pets such as cats or dogs weighing less than 50 pounds. Don't create large puddles of water in areas where there have been coyote problems (especially in the summer months).

Threaten (haze) coyotes by shouting at them while throwing pebbles at them whenever they approach human property. Using an air horn or shaking a can with pebbles

in it will also frighten the coyote. At an informational meeting for YPG housing residents on December 15, Scott Fisher, Arizona Game and Fish Department wildlife manager, emphasized the value of hazing coyotes.

Pick up fruit that falls off trees and excess bird seed, since coyotes are omnivorous.

Always remember that coyotes are wild animals and should remain that way. Never try to feed or pet them.

The more free meals coyotes find and the more non-threatening people they encounter, the more coyotes will lose their fear of humans. Coyotes that adapt to human settlements become bolder and often appear in daylight. On Yuma Proving Ground coyotes are usually seen at dawn and

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Matt Fischer

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dusk in the housing areas – normal times for coyotes to forage.

Sadly, there are reports of employees and contractors feeding specific coyotes. A coyote that approaches humans and begs for food is a danger to people, traffic, and the mission. Such an animal cannot be relocated but instead must be euthanized. Please do not feed these beautiful animals. A fed coyote is a dead coyote.

For more information on how to peacefully coexist with wildlife, please visit and explore the Arizona Game and Fish Department website, particularly https://www.azgfd.com/ Wildlife/LivingWith/.

Please direct questions about wildlife to the Environmental Sciences Division at 328-2125.

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The more free meals coyotes find and the more non-threatening people they encounter, the more they will lose their fear of humans. Coyotes that adapt to human settlements become bolder and often appear in daylight. On Yuma Proving Ground coyotes are usually seen at dawn and dusk-- normal times for them to forage.

Raven Claw augments battle management for electronic warfare operations

By John Higgins, PEO IEW&S Public Affairs

The Army continues to test new equipment to expand their electronic warfare capabilities.

If the Electronic Warfare Planning and Management Tool (EWPMT) brings the Electromagnetic spectrum into the Military Decisionmaking Process (MDMP), Raven Claw accelerates future EWPMT capabilities and adds much-needed detail to the Electromagnetic spectrum portion of the Common Operating Picture (COP) in support of synchronized operations.

Raven Claw, built on the foundational components of EWPMT Capability Drop 1 and 2 was conceived during EW experimentation at Fort Sill and designed -- using direct user feedback from Electronic Warfare personnel - to work networked or in a Disconnected, Intermittent or Latent (DIL) environment. This means it doesn't depend on a host server or external data, but rather can function on its own with last known data and real-time feeds from sensors providing electronic support to do its work. Raven Claw is contained in a ruggedized military laptop that integrates with other Army systems.

"The Raven Claw does a lot for us; it's your window to the sensors in the field, it gives you information for analysis, it feeds real time, actionable intel," said Sgt. 1st Class Steve Schoyen, who participated in a test of the system at U.S. Yuma Proving Ground. "That develops the commander's common operating picture. The Raven Claw can also do modeling and simulation. You're able to help feed your S2 and validate or help them change their enemy situational template as to what they believe would be the most likely or most deadly [dangerous] course of action, also in real time because of that real time actionable intel."

Radio frequency signatures are not affected by temperature. In desert heat or artic cold, they are ever- present. Anyone using radios will have a 'signal footprint,' in any environment.

"All this technology we have for sensing emitters? We aren't the only ones that have it," said Capt. Kevin Voss, assistant product manager for EWPMT. "Everybody is going to have it, so if the commander can see what his digital footprint looks like, that also feeds into future potential projects as to what else we can use help to do some disguising the footprint or creating a false Tactical Operations Center in a different environment."

The Command Post (CP) is merely one place to have a Raven Claw system, as it "plays well with others." There is automated communication between Raven Claw systems, which means that if you have one in your TOC and one on a vehicle, they can provide near real time updates to each other. It also has the ability to interface with Sabre Fury, a modified version of the DUKE V4/V5 EW system, a key component of mobility and communication that is installed on vehicles, can be used with Raven Claw for Electronic Defense and Attack.

"It's important to have that," said Schoyen. "Things move so fast you need to have that kind of information sharing relationship both in your cell and with the [intelligence shop] and [operations shop] and your fellow targeteers in the fire shop."

"Mobility is kind of the thing we do; it allows you to position your

sensors and to pretty much get the best line of sight that you can against emitters and also with your own sensors," said Staff Sgt. David Delgado, a former Electronic Warfare Technician with the U.S. Navy turned Soldier.

Delgado has high hopes for the fielding of Raven Claw, "At the brigade level, I'm hoping within the next three years we have organic equipment. Electronic warfare isn't new," Degaldo said. "It's now comeback over the past seven years for the regular Army."

The system will be fielded to Army units in Europe in the early months of 2018, a fact that has Col. Marty Hagenston, the Project Manager for Electronic Warfare & Cyber, very enthusiastic.

"The appetite for long programs is over," said Hagenston. "We've got to make sure that we take advantage of all opportunities to get capability out as soon as it's ready as quick as we can."

Raven Claw 1 builds upon the software foundation of the Electronic Warfare Planning and Management program of record that allows us to deliver operational needs based capabilities as soon as they are tested and ready, Hagenston said.



Electronic Warfare Soldiers gather around Raven Claw, a new piece of military hardware conceived during electronic warfare experimentation earlier this year. Raven Claw doesn't depend on a host server or external data, functioning on its own with last known data and real-time feeds from sensors providing electronic support to do its work. Raven Claw is contained in a ruggedized military laptop that integrates with other Army systems until an appropriate hosting environment is introduced into Army formations.

"The operational based capabilities stemming from immediate theater requirements have given us the opportunity to change the program of record path from development through testing and support to craft a more adaptive program that can accommodate direct user feedback and changes in the operational environment," he continued. "In fact, in coordination with the stakeholders, we intend to skip the planned, limited fieldings of the early capability drops and replace them with a more capable Raven Claw 1 and Raven Claw 2. Raven Claw 2 is underway now with a planned deployment as early as 2019."



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