

THE OUTPOST

U.S. ARMY YUMA PROVING GROUND, YUMA, ARIZONA 85365 | VOLUME 68 NO. 3 FEBRUARY 4, 2019

Green Berets drop into YPG



PHOTO BY SGT. IAN IVES

A U.S. Army Special Forces Team with 1st Special Forces Group-- Airborne traveled from Joint Base Lewis-McChord, Wash. to Yuma Proving Ground in January to participate in Military Free Fall training. For the full story, please turn to page 6.

Bradley Fighting Vehicle testing has long history at YPG

By Mark Schauer

When it comes to mechanized infantry and armored cavalry combat, the Bradley Fighting Vehicle has a venerable history transporting American Soldiers across battlefields.

The platform has proved itself to be lethal and survivable in multiple theaters since first fielded in 1981. In the first Gulf War, only three of the more than 2,200 Bradley Fighting Vehicles that thundered into Iraq were lost to enemy fire. Moreover, the Bradley, armed with a 25mm chain-driven autocannon, a 7.62 mm machine gun, and twin Tube-launched, Optically-tracked, Wire-guided (TOW) missiles, destroyed more armored Iraqi vehicles than did the M1 Abrams Main Battle Tank.

In ensuing years, the threat faced by American Soldiers mutated, but the Bradley remained viable and relevant thanks to extensive testing of subsequent upgrades at YPG.

"The Bradley was built based on a set of requirements from

SEE **BRADLEY** page 2

Tests highlight
UAS' ability to
collaboratively sense
and adapt /Page 3



Good intentions
with New Year's
resolutions
/Page 5



YPG Command Judge
Advocate office
can help with tax
preparation /Page 8





The Bradley Fighting Vehicle has proved itself to be lethal and survivable in multiple theaters since first fielded in 1981, and has undergone extensive testing of upgrades at YPG over the years. As a one-stop shop for sophisticated testing, YPG is poised to continue supporting both new and legacy combat vehicle testing far into the future.

PHOTO BY MARK SCHAUER

Their ubiquity has influenced other important platforms in the country's ground combat arsenal. Changes to the latest variant of the M109 Paladin self-propelled howitzer, for example, include a new engine and transmission common to that found in the Bradley, an interchangeability of components that makes the mission of field mechanics easier and suggests the Bradley will remain ready for battle for some years to come.

At YPG, the Bradley is sent out for weeks of durability missions across the range. These simulated missions take the Bradley across scores of miles of road courses featuring various terrain conditions, from paved to gravel to punishing desert washboard that would severely rattle less robust vehicles. As they traverse these roads, test vehicle operators continually verify the performance of all the platform's sophisticated electronics.

"Set points throughout these courses verify that the navigation system is working as it is supposed to and that the targeting system is giving accurate ranges," Obradovich said.

YPG has the range space to conduct live fire tests of the vehicle from both stationary and moving positions.

"Usually we fire from a stationary position, but sometimes we'll fire while the vehicle is moving," said Obradovich. "We'll fire at moving targets and drive it over a bumpy course to make sure the stabilization system is working properly."

As a one-stop shop for sophisticated testing, YPG is poised to continue supporting both new and legacy combat vehicle testing for years to come.

"It's a testament to our folks," said Obradovich. "We have really good people with years of experience, and their good work has developed this capability."

THE OUTPOST

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BRADLEY

FROM PAGE 1

decades ago: it fit that mission, but as times evolved, so did the field environment," said Jacob Obradovich, senior test officer. "As all combat vehicles have evolved, their size and weight have outgrown original expectations. They need additional power to sustain legacy requirements while supporting future technologies."

As it is, the Bradley is hardly a relic of a bygone era. Thoroughly digitized and boasting technology like thermal imagers, nearly 7,000 Bradleys have been fielded since their inception.

Cracking the CODE: Ground and flight tests highlight UAS' ability to collaboratively sense and adapt

By Tabatha Thompson

In a recent test series at YPG, the Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency (DARPA) Collaborative Operations in Denied Environment (CODE) program demonstrated the ability of CODE-equipped Unmanned Aerial Systems (UAS) to adapt and respond to unexpected threats in an anti-access area denial (A2AD) environment.

The UAS efficiently shared information, cooperatively planned and allocated mission objectives, made coordinated tactical decisions, and collaboratively reacted to a dynamic, high-threat environment with minimal communication.

The air vehicles initially operated with supervisory mission commander interaction. When communications were degraded or denied, CODE vehicles retained mission plan intent to accomplish mission objectives without live human direction. The ability for CODE-enabled vehicles to interact when communications are degraded is an important step toward the program goal to conduct dynamic, long-distance engagements of highly mobile ground and maritime targets in contested or denied battlespace.

"The test series expanded on previously demonstrated approaches to low bandwidth collaborative

sensing and on-board planning. It demonstrated the ability to operate in more challenging scenarios, where both communications and GPS navigation were denied for extended periods," said Scott Wierzbowski, DARPA program manager for CODE.

During the three-week ground and flight test series in a live/virtual/constructive (LVC) environment, up to six live and 24 virtual UAS served as surrogate strike assets, receiving mission objectives from a human mission commander. The systems then autonomously collaborated to navigate, search, localize, and engage both pre-planned and pop-up targets protected by a simulated Integrated Air Defense System (IADS) in communications- and GPS-denied scenarios.

"The demonstrated behaviors are the building blocks for an autonomous team that can collaborate and adjust to mission requirements and a changing

environment," said Wierzbowski.

The DARPA team also has advanced the infrastructure necessary to support further development, integration, and testing of CODE as it transitions to future autonomous systems.

Achievements include incorporation of third-party autonomy algorithms into the current software build, the creation of a government repository and lab test environment for the CODE algorithms, and the successful demonstration of the Johns Hopkins University Applied Physics Laboratory White Force Network

capability to provide constructive threats and effects in an LVC test environment.

CODE's scalable capabilities could greatly enhance the survivability, flexibility, and effectiveness of existing air platforms, as well as reduce the development times and costs of future systems.

Further development of CODE and associated infrastructure will continue under DARPA until the conclusion of the program this spring, followed by full transition of the CODE software repository to Naval Air Systems Command.



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Chaplain's Corner

Every adversity can be a stepping stone

By Maj. Ronald Beltz

One day a farmer's donkey fell down into a well. The animal cried piteously for hours as the farmer tried to figure out a way to get him out. Finally he decided it was probably impossible and the animal was old and the well was dry anyway, so it just wasn't worth it to try and retrieve the donkey. So the farmer asked his neighbors to come over and help him cover up the well. They all grabbed shovels and began to shovel dirt into the well.

realized what was happening he cried horribly. Then, to everyone's amazement, he quieted down and let out some happy brays. A few shovel loads later, the farmer looked down the well to see what was happening and was astonished at what he saw. With every shovel of dirt that hit his back, the donkey was shaking it off and taking a step up.

As the farmer's neighbors continued to shovel dirt on top of the animal, he continued to shake it off and take a step up. Pretty soon, to everyone's amazement, the donkey stepped up over the edge of

the well and trotted off!

Life is going to shovel dirt on you. The trick to getting out of the well is to shake it off and take a step up. Every adversity can be turned into a stepping stone. The way to get out of the deepest well is by never giving up but by shaking yourself off and taking a step up.

What happens to you isn't nearly as important as how you react to it.

Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged, for the Lord your God will be with you wherever you go. Joshua 1:9.





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Shoot'in the Breeze

Good intentions

By David J. Horn

Well, it's February. So, how are all your New Year's resolutions to lose weight by working out...working out?

Well, if you're like me, you'll go home tonight still weighing 10 pounds more than you did in early November, and you're going to walk right past that dust-covered treadmill to plop down in that comfy chair in front of your computer. Working that long day at YPG, we only have an hour or two of personal time after work, and there's a lot of social media and other sites to visit before we hit the lights. I really want to lose weight, but darn...I just can't seem to figure out how to get motivated.

It happens to me every year. I head into November with the goal of not gaining any weight over the holidays, like all the weight I gained last year

in spite of all my good intentions. But, staring at all that food on that long Thanksgiving Day table full of delicious homemade potluck dishes, instead of willpower saving the day, my "I-grew-up-poor-survival-genes" kicked in and I stuffed myself until I felt like I was going to burst. Then, in mid-December, there were three noon-time retirement parties for YPG coworkers, where I ate a lot more food than I intended to when I packed my lunch pail for the day. Christmas arrived and things got even worse, because in addition to several more big tables of mouthwatering food at parties all over town, there were boxes and boxes of salty nuts and chocolate candy treats wrapped up and waiting for me under the Christmas tree. Then came the New Year's Eve Party, where more great food got washed down with Champagne. Last, but not least, the

drinks and chips and pizzas of the Super Bowl party! The other dust-covered object in my house at the moment is my scale. I don't even want to go near that thing.

So, here I sit. Reminded every time I bend over to tie my shoes that I now really need to lose 20 pounds. Reminded every time I look at what's stashed in my freezer, of how disappointed I am in that friend of mine, who at a party at his house introduced me to the additive pleasures of Blue Bunny Homemade Vanilla ice cream. Especially when you let the ice cream melt a little bit and it's really creamy.

While I've watched my weight go up and down over the years, I've also noticed some interesting trends. If I eat light meals during the day and eat just a salad in the evening, I'll still gain about ¼-pound a day. If I eat those same light meals, but work

out on the tread mill for 30 minutes burning 300 calories after I get home from work, I'll lose ½-pound a day. How does that work, when 300 calories are less than 1/10th of a pound of fat? Actually, I think I know. And I also know, that every meal at my favorite Chinese restaurant in town, weighs three pounds.

It seems just like yesterday, when if I was in the kitchen and needed to clean up a minor spill on the floor, I could just take a rag and effortlessly bend over and wipe it up. Like I said...memories. At this point, I can only wonder how many months it's going to take to work this off.

Oh, Wow! My daughter just called me to say that she's getting married next fall! After all these years, I'm not only going to have to buy a suit, I'm going to have to meet my ex again. OK. Elevation...7.5 degrees. Speed...3.1 mph. Let's get going!



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Green Berets drop into YPG

By Sgt. Ian Ives

A U.S. Army Special Forces Team with 1st Special Forces Group-- Airborne (SFGA) traveled from Joint Base Lewis-McChord, Wash. to Yuma Proving Ground in January to participate in Military Free Fall (MFF) training. This three week training exercise helped hone the SF Team's high altitude low opening (HALO) and high altitude high opening (HAHO) skills to ensure their excellence in future operations.

Military free fall operations are an

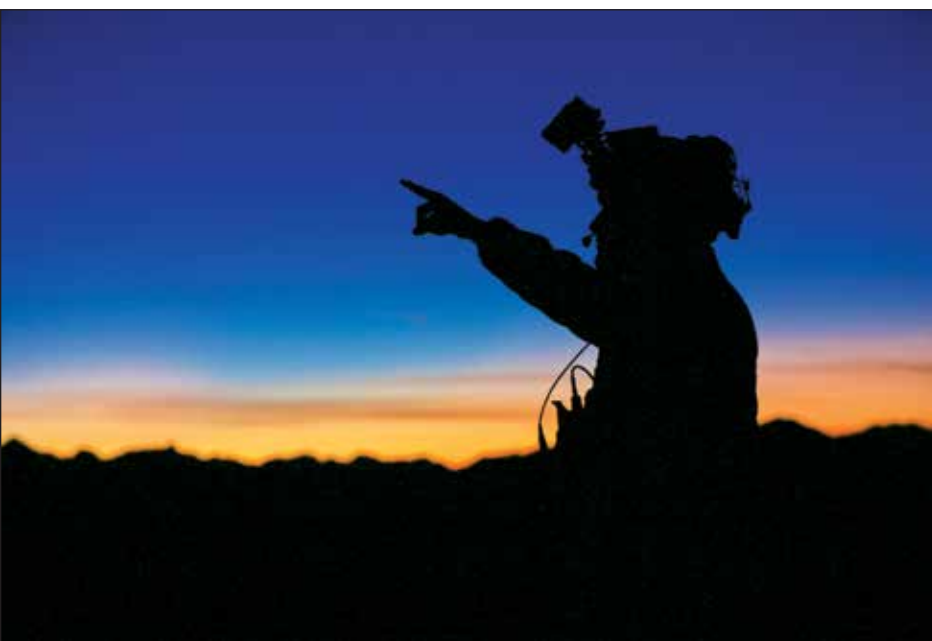


PHOTOS BY SGT. IAN IVES

Military free fall operations are an important asset to special operations allowing Special Forces Soldiers to insert themselves into any area of operation without the team or the aircraft being detected.



A U.S. Army Special Forces Team with 1st Special Forces Group-- Airborne (SFGA) conducted Military Free Fall (MFF) training at YPG. This three week training exercise helped hone the Special Forces Team's high altitude low opening (HALO) and high altitude high opening (HAHO) skills to ensure their excellence in future operations.



The group's training mission was coordinated by YPG's Training Exercise Management Office. Though YPG is primarily used for testing, the installation's training ranges are robust enough to accommodate the needs of multiple units simultaneously.



The team also practiced a technique known as 'bundle chasing,' where an SF team drops a bundle of supplies from an aircraft and then performs a HAHO jump and attempts to land with or as close to the bundle as possible. These bundles can carry up to 10,000 pounds of equipment and supplies needed for any mission.

important asset to special operations allowing Special Forces Soldiers to insert themselves into any area of operation without the team or the aircraft being detected. While the 1st SFGA has the ability to train this method of insertion at their home station, practicing this technique in different environments is an invaluable opportunity.

"Coming to Yuma gives us the chance to get back to working on our specialty," said a Special Forces team leader with 1st SFGA. "With having come back from a recent deployment and having gained some new guys on the team; its nice to be able to focus on nothing but free fall training."

YPG also provided unique mentorship as the Military Free Fall School is located here as well. The 1st SFGA team already being very proficient at MFF operations were able to be fine-tuned by cadre who are experts in the craft.

"Despite it not being an official tasking from the school house, we received many tips and ideas that helped make our jumps more efficient and safer," said the team leader. "These guys are experts with thousands of jumps, so any advice that they were willing to give, we took."

The team also practiced a technique known as 'bundle chasing,' where an SF team drops a bundle of supplies from an aircraft and then performs a HAHO jump and attempts to land with or as close to the bundle as possible. These bundles can carry up to 10,000 pounds of equipment and supplies needed for any mission.

"By dropping a bundle it allows teams to jump with less supplies on their person, but still have everything they need once they make their landing," said Sgt. 1st Class Matt Prager, an Army parachute rigger with 1st SFGA.

Following their three weeks of relentless training, the free fall team returned to Washington having honed their craft and learning some new techniques.

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YPG Command Judge Advocate office can help Soldiers with tax preparation

By Casey Garcia

The IRS is back at work after the partial government shut down and tax season is upon us. Our very own Command Judge Advocate Office (JAG) will be preparing federal and state income tax returns under the Army Legal Assistance Program in conjunction with the IRS Military Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) Program.

Beverly Williams and Daniel Shifrin will be in the JAG office while Kristina Bowen will be volunteering at the post library again this year to assist you with preparing your tax returns.

The Command Judge Advocate office has broken down the tax season

by who is eligible to receive free income tax return preparation and electronic filing if you are active duty or retired military that either live or work on Yuma Proving Ground, or their family members/dependents. Active duty Soldiers will be served from January 28 through February 15, while all other eligible clients may seek assistance after February 15.

The JAG will only provide a drop off service this year. Please ensure you return your packets completed with the required documentation or they will be returned to you. All individuals must bring a copy of last year's tax returns or they cannot drop off their 2018 tax return. In many instances, the tax preparer must reference back to last year's

return for information to complete the current year's return. Packets will be date stamped as they are received "first come, first serve." If you are filing a joint return ensure that both parties are present for signature. If both parties are not present please be sure to give your spouse an original General or Special POA, or an IRS POA, if you expect to be unavailable to sign your portion of the joint tax return. This is the only documentation that will be accepted. If you need to give your spouse a Power of Attorney, you can obtain one by contacting the JAG for an appointment at 328-2608.

Of note the Command Judge Advocate office cannot provide services for any small business (which includes most rental

real estate), non-cash charitable donations over \$500, foreclosures, and cancelled debt and Railroad Retirement. These services are outside the scope of the Legal Assistance Program. They cannot provide tax assistance on rental real estate properties unless the property is your principal residence. In addition, active duty Soldiers with more than one rental property and retirees with any rental property cannot be serviced at the Yuma Proving Ground Tax Center.

If you have questions in reference to your taxes, take a look at <http://www.irs.gov> for useful information and tips.

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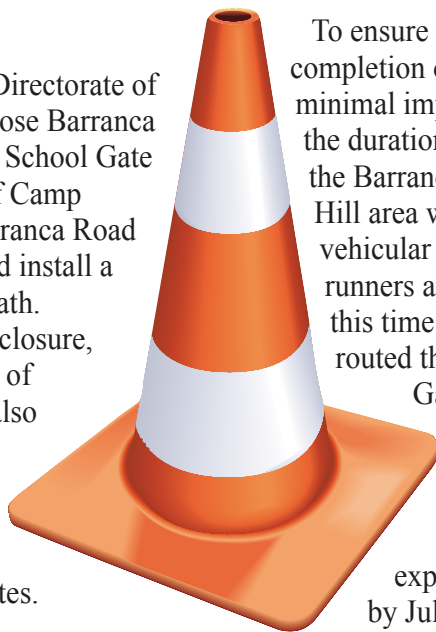
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Construction will temporarily close Barranca Road

By Bralen Young

On March 11 the Directorate of Public Works will close Barranca Road from the Price School Gate to the intersection of Camp Avion Road and Barranca Road to repair the road and install a dedicated walking path.

In addition to this closure, the roadway in front of Building 1004 will also be closed. Please comply with all signage showing closures and vehicular detour routes.



To ensure expedient completion of the project with minimal impact to all parties for the duration of construction, the Barranca Road and Easter Hill area will be closed to vehicular traffic as well as to runners and walkers. During this time all traffic will be routed through the Walker Gate for the Walker Cantonment Area and Laguna Army Airfield.

This project is expected to be complete by July 15, 2019.

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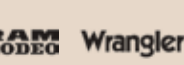


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