

YPG hosts ATEC Commander's Conference and Commanding General praises workforce and talks modernization

By Ana Henderson

"I love coming to YPG" that's what Maj. Gen. Joel K. Tyler, the Commanding General of the U.S. Army Test and Evaluation Command (ATEC) had to say about visiting the hottest installation under his command.

Tyler's last visit was 2018 just after he assumed command of ATEC, "The people made a deep impression and that includes the community leaders who are so supportive of this place. So, I really wanted to highlight that to the rest of the commanders, staff and ATEC and show how things have changed and how they have stayed the same and to see how YPG is adapting to the future."

Yuma Proving Ground (YPG)

had that opportunity when ATEC chose it as the location for the ATEC Commander's Conference.

Nearly all of ATEC's commanders, proving ground and test center commanders, sergeants major, and technical directors converged at YPG in late July for the quarterly ATEC Commander's Conference.

Tyler explained that holding the conference is a good way to stay in tune with the needs since ATEC is a large organization with approximately 8,000 people and 21 geographical locations. ATEC has around 2,000 efforts or projects a year which is about 700 Army programs.

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Sgt. Maj. Michael Goodman pulls the lanyard to fire a weapon system. This demonstration was one of the many shown when nearly all of ATEC's commanders, proving ground and test center commanders, sergeants major, and technical directors converged at YPG in late July for the quarterly ATEC Commander's Conference. (Photo by Kurt Harrison)

YPG's new high-definition inspection equipment provide results in real time

By Ana Henderson

Yuma Test Center's motto is "Truth in Testing" and that is Subject Matter Expert Lead of Non-Destructive Testing, Mechanical Engineer, David

Le's mission with non-destructive inspections at the Yuma Proving Ground (YPG) Metrology and Simulation Division.

Le says as a test center, "We

have to perform the inspection and measurements at a higher precision level requirement, than private industry" adding, "A lot of the weapons systems coming here

to YPG for testing are looking to optimize the design and performance. Our inspection findings, the data,

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Manager
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CONFERENCE

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“The Commander’s Conference really gives us an opportunity to get together and assess where we are as the larger organization and hear from each of the subordinate organizations as to how they are doing and what they need. It also helps us come together as a single body and figure out where we need to go.”

The Army’s focus has become modernization. In July of 2018 the Army Futures Command (AFC) was

created, and in 2019 ATEC was put in direct support of AFC which is driving Army modernization.

“It’s interesting to see how people are adapting to new technology and new requirements, and to see how we fit as part of this modernization effort” says Tyler adding, “For every line of effort that AFC is pursuing, it is being touched somewhere across ATEC.”

YPG is embracing the modernization. It’s leading the way in long-range precision fires with the Extended-Range Cannon Artillery (ERCA). In 2018 YPG used ERCA

to fire 62 kilometers, nearly doubling the current standard, and hopes to extend that range to 70 or more kilometers.

“At YPG you have long-range precision fires which is an enormous effort and Yuma has the world’s experts on it – so it’s wonderful” says Tyler.

Earlier this year YPG acquired a new high-technology software system and tools to conduct non-destruction inspections of cannons. This month, YPG is acquiring the first of many high-mobility and multi-tracker radars to keep up with the advanced weapons.

YPG was able to showcase its assets to the leaders of the various ATEC organizations because as Tyler explains no two installations are the same,

“I think it’s really valuable for each organization to appreciate the challenges and opportunities that they all go through. I always say, our nine subordinate organizations are all different - differently funded, or missioned or situated. So I think there is value from hearing from each other and they are addressing those challenges.”

One thing Tyler is adamant about is that all this progress could not be possible without the workforce which he genuinely appreciates.



Munitions and Weapon’s Division Chief, Kermit Okamura presents, while (left to right) Sgt. Maj. Michael Goodman, Col. Jackson Seims, YTC Commander Lt. Col. Alicia Johnson and Ground Combat System, Director, Eddy Patchet observe. (Photo by Kurt Harrison)



Maj. Gen. Tyler explained that holding the conference is a good way to stay in tune with the needs since ATEC is a large organization with approximately 8,000 people and 21 geographical locations. ATEC has around 2,000 efforts or projects a year which is about 700 Army programs. (Photo by Ana Henderson)

Tyler first of all thanks everyone for what they do. “The commitment and the passion that the workforce brings to the work every day is just incredible” adding,

“Keep your eyes open and ears to the ground - change comes quickly. I think we are living in a very dynamic era. The Army is figuring out the future, and the future gets figured out at places like Yuma Proving Ground. So we need you to be adaptive, we need you to be committed, and we need you to help people think through the problems of the future. My job is to make sure you have what you need to do that.”

THE OUTPOST

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Air Delivery Branch Division Chief, Ryan Tiaden presents, while Airborne Test Force Jumper, Sgt. Steven Lehoux stands by wearing the Military freefall combat equipment. (Photo by Ana Henderson)

Welcome the new Deputy Garrison Manager at YPG

By Ana Henderson

Ronny James recently stepped into the role of Deputy Garrison Manager at Yuma Proving Ground (YPG).

Has been with Installation Management Command since 2005 back when it was called the Installation Management Agency. Since 2005 he has been at five different installations working mostly with plans analysis and integration.

James has a wealth of experience in installation management, he served as temporary Deputy Garrison commanders at various bases including Fort Bragg, in North Carolina and Camp Red Cloud in Korea.

He recently graduated from the Army War College in Pennsylvania, where he earned a master's degree in Strategic Studies, "I was lucky because each year they have a topic and this year's topic was future bases. I got to be a part of that seminar for about three quarters of the time I was there. I got to study future installations, and what that looks like for the Army and how we can prepare our installations."

James is not completely new to YPG he worked here 11 years ago, "I had a fondness for it when I left and I am glad to be back. It's still a bunch of great people doing great things."

Adding, "The Army is heavily in



Ronny James recently stepped into the role of Deputy Garrison Manager at YPG.

modernization and all those priorities for the Army will be tested here. I think it is excited what we get to be a part of that; the future of the Army, that equipment, those six things that the Army is focusing on will all come through here."

James position has him overseeing the Garrison directors who run the city functions on base such as the; police, the fire department, operations, public works, MWR to name a few. This time around he hopes to make sure everyone understands their value to the organization, "A goal is to make sure that the folks understand that what they do is really important to the Army."

New Family Advocacy Program Manager at YPG

By Ana Henderson

Cathyann Robinson has joined the Family Support Team as a Family Advocate at YPG. Robinson came from Ansbach Army Base in Germany where she spend three years. She has have been practicing Social work for over five years. Specializing in Micro and Mezzo social work, using solution focus brief therapy intervention methods. Robinson earned her bachelor's degree in Human Resources from the University of Maryland and a Master's degree in Social Work with a clinical focus from Troy University.

Robinson emphasis is on Military family service, domestic violence, child behavior, relationship problems and advocacy.

The family services team at YPG focuses on prevention and education.

The New Family Support Program includes services for those who are newly pregnant or recently gave birth. They provide breastfeeding classes and even have a welcome gift basket.

The Family Advocacy Program team provides parenting classes



Cathyann Robinson has joined the Family Support Team as a Family Advocate at YPG. (Photos by Ana Henderson)

and other services for those dealing with family turmoil.

The Victim Advocacy Program provides services for victims of domestic violence.

The Exceptional Family Member Program provides resources for children with special needs.

Robinson's goal is to empower individuals and continue to educate social workers around the World by sharing professional experiences, resources and building partnerships, "I look forward to hit the ground running and provide services to the community."

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A positive start to the day starts with a smile at YPG gate



Simple acts of kindness are something YPG Security Officer Efran Huerta knows well. He just wants to change the workplace one compliment, one smile, and one person at a time.

By Casey Garcia

Start the day with positivity. It stands to reason that if you want to enjoy a powerful and positive day then you need to make a powerful and positive start to the day right?

Each day tends to continue as it starts. For example, if you get off on the wrong foot, you are more likely going to encounter more negative experiences throughout the day. You woke up late, you are having a bad hair day and now while speeding on Highway 95 you get pulled over and to top it all off you just spilled your coffee.

Going from negative to positive is a big transition for your mind. All too often we underestimate the power of a smile, a kind word, someone who will listen, a compliment or the smallest act of kindness. All of which have the power to turn someone's life

around not JUST their day.

Simple acts of kindness are something YPG Security Officer Efran Huerta knows well. He just wants to change the workplace one compliment, one smile, and one person at a time. The positive interaction from YPG security officers can make a transformational shift in how you were conducting your day.

Ofc. Huerta does this each and every day at every interaction he starts with positivity, a smile and tries to ensure you get started on the right foot, or if your morning didn't start, he hopes to change it for the better and continue the path to positivity.

Do you want to know the really interesting part about being kind? The benefits are contagious!

People who witness the same positive feelings and reactions and are more likely to commit acts of kindness themselves. Kindness has a domino effect that can spread far and wide.

There are nearly 2,500 people that work on YPG and if Ofc. Huerta even touches 25% of our employees with his acts of kindness, which means 625 started their day with a positive interaction. If even half of those people pay kindness and positivity forward now 937 people have been impacted by his smile, kind word, or compliments.

Let's make a point to be a bit more OTHER people centered, and vocalize compliments to those who inspire us, no matter how big or small that inspiration might be.



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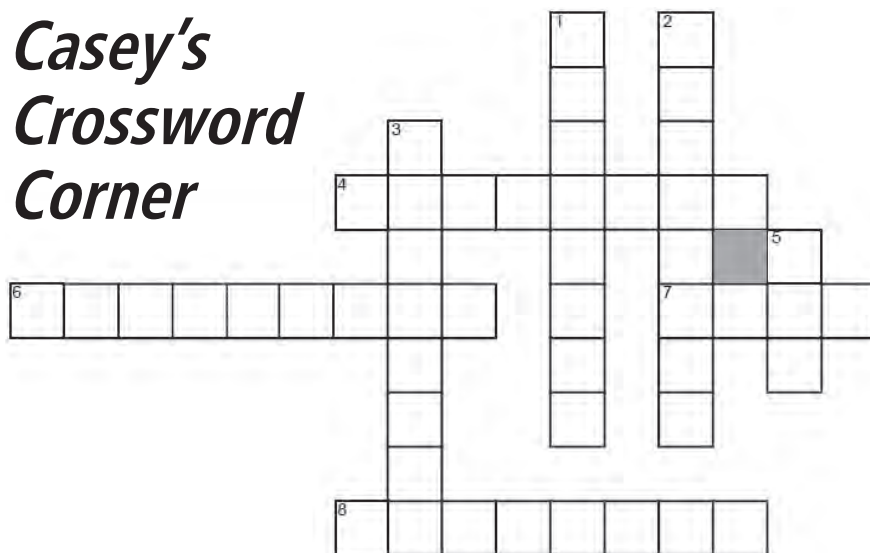
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Across:

4. What put Yuma on the map in 1849?
6. Do what is right, legally and morally.
7. Created to replace the M113.
8. U.S. Army War College is located in what city?

Down:

1. The Army Civilian Corps was established how many years ago?
2. YPG has 1976 square miles of this?
3. This was established in 1852.
5. DOD developed this in 1978.

Key: (1) Thirteen (2) Fort Yuma (3) Airspace (4) Gold rush (5) GPS (6) Integrity (7) AMVP (8) Carlisle

Shootin' the Breeze

Just to have a little fun looking back, here's a reprint of an Outpost Article of mine that was published on June 6th, 1988:

Just leave a message on one of these...

Story by David J. Horn
Combat Systems Branch, MTD

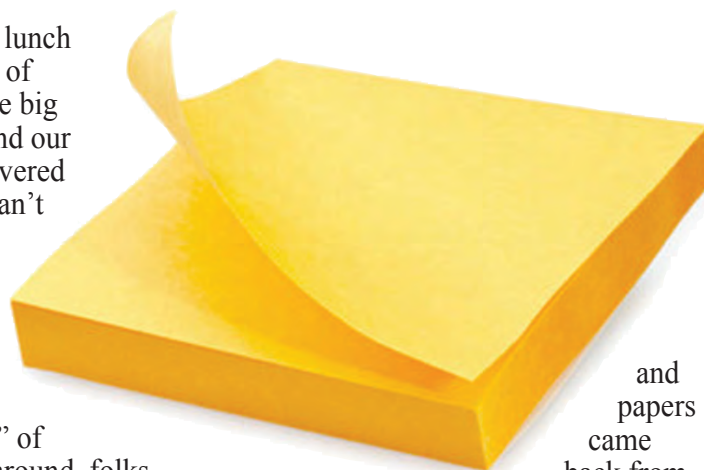
Down here in the Combat Systems Trailer, we have several types of materiel items that play vital roles in the successful completion of our mission. From our data collection systems, all our special tools, to all our sophisticated electronic instrumentation. But, if I was to pick one item that if taken away would just shut this place down it would be...you guessed it...THE YELLOW STICKIE!!

Yes, those little pads of yellow note paper, in three convenient sizes, with the gummy stuff on the back. They're everywhere! Here in the trailer, they're plastered all over the walls, doors, file cabinets, bulletin boards, calendars, the fridge, the

copying machine, lunch boxes, chairs, and of course, desks. The big office computer and our typewriters are covered with them! You can't pick up a phone without getting stickies stuck all over your hands and elbows.

Not content with just a "tablet" of the things laying around, folks in here also have those fancy stickie holders and dispensers! The type where, when you try to peel off a stickie, the holder comes along for just enough of a ride to get flung off your desk.

And, remember when draft reports



and papers came back from your boss all

bloody red? Well, not anymore! Now, it's the "yellow stickie frame look," where yellow stickies are sticking out from the edges of all the pages. Or, when your report is really bad...multiple layers of stickies

are stuck on partially off-set over earlier applied ones, creating that "shingled" look (which can almost be a creative outlet for the boss).

Of course the latest thing, are the new "designer" stickies, with all sorts of cool pictures pre-printed on them. One of the guys here in the office has a project that's been nothing but a big problem, and he has a private stock of stickies that all have a little fan with stuff flying off bent blades pre-printed up in one corner. Yep, gone are the days of messy scotch tape and plain, ordinary, white, note paper.

The only bad thing about stickies, is when you get down to the last one. Peeling it off, I have the same feeling I get when I get down to my last bank check. I gotta get more!

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EQUIPMENT

FROM PAGE 1

and the photographs, give valuable information to evaluators, engineers and designers, to optimize what they are testing.”

Weapon technology is continually advancing and the inspection equipment must keep up with it in order to help push the boundaries of future weapon capabilities. The latest piece of inspection technology acquired by the Metrology Branch helps uphold this standard.

In April, YPG purchased a high-tech cannon tube inspection system which can detect very small cracks that may occur during testing, and can also see propellant residue in the interior bore surface of a tube to evaluate the cannon tube cleaning procedures. The system is called the High-definition Ultraviolet Visual Borescope inspection system and is used for visual borescope inspection and the magnetic particle inspection of the cannon gun barrel. It has the capability to inspection 105, 120 and 155mm cannon tubes.

Until recently, the inspection team, used two individual analog tube inserts, one with an ultraviolet light attached and one with a white

light for inspections. To capture photographs of the interior of the cannon tube the team would have to place a digital camera at the end of the 20-foot tube to capture the images of the cracks and wear. This method was considered high-tech at one time, but it was time to use a method with the amazing optical clarity being offered in 2019.

With the new system, all the accessories are built into one. The high-definition video camera system goes into the cannon tube, then using the mouse and computer monitor an inspector can adjust the focus and lighting of the camera to see very fine details.

The team has a real-time view of the interior of the cannon tube on a 40-inch computer monitor, and with a click of a computer mouse they can capture high-definition photographs or video.

“We have the high-definition video camera and an images transfers from the camera directly into the high-definition monitor. We are able to view, capture and store the images and make video.”

The previous ultraviolet light intensity was 1,200 megawatt per centimeter square. The new system has 6,000 megawatt per centimeter, five-times the light intensity, Le



YPG purchased the High-definition Ultraviolet Visual Borescope inspection system which is used for visual borescope inspection and the magnetic particle inspection of the cannon gun barrel. It has the capability to inspection 105, 120 and 155mm cannon tubes.

explains “It’s capable to make adjustments, from low to medium and medium to high intensity which allows us to see the surface better and for the camera to focus on the surface to detect cracks.”

The white light provides increased intensity that provides high-definition images which allow inspectors to zoom into an image approximately 15 times without losing visual resolution. The white light inspection detects debris or lint that might have entered the bore surface via the cleaning cloth or brush.

In the past, the ultraviolet and white lights were used separately,

now both lights can be used simultaneous which Le says “Makes the process of the inspection go faster and more accurate. We are talking about speed and accuracy.”

The still image resolution goes from 1200 megabyte to 1800 megabyte, “It’s really high-definition and we are able to see more details” says Le.

Adding, “We can actually see really well with the crack indentation about 5,000 of an inch width and 10,000th of an inch long easily.”

To put that in perspective, the size of the human hair is about 3-4,000th of an inch thick diameter.



The high-definition video camera system goes into the cannon tube, then using the mouse and computer monitor an inspector can adjust the focus and lighting of the camera to see very fine details.



The system software shows the position and location (angle and axis) of the camera (when inside the cannon tube) on the screen, allowing inspectors to pin point exactly where cracks are located. “If we see any type of feature show up on the screen, we are able to see the location” says Le.



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This technology helps set a baseline for any existing wear, inspectors can measure if the cracks changed after testing and also capture new cannon tube wear.

The system also allows them to make annotations on the images.

These clear images and accurate measurements essentially eliminate the need to repeat processes like in the past, "It would take four to six hours looking in the cannon tube, with the new system, it's one shot going into the barrel and we are able to see on the image on the screen with one touch and record the entire cannon tube."

Applying new technology that is built into the system provides customers with the most accurate information on the condition of their test item.

With research development testing at YPG, if a weapon has an issue while testing, the test team brings the cannon tube into the inspection shop for crack detection, evaluation of erosion or dimensional laser bore mapping.

"Sometimes they see a cannon four times in week or two times in a day."

Regardless, inspectors need to provide answers in a timely manner to keep the test moving forward.

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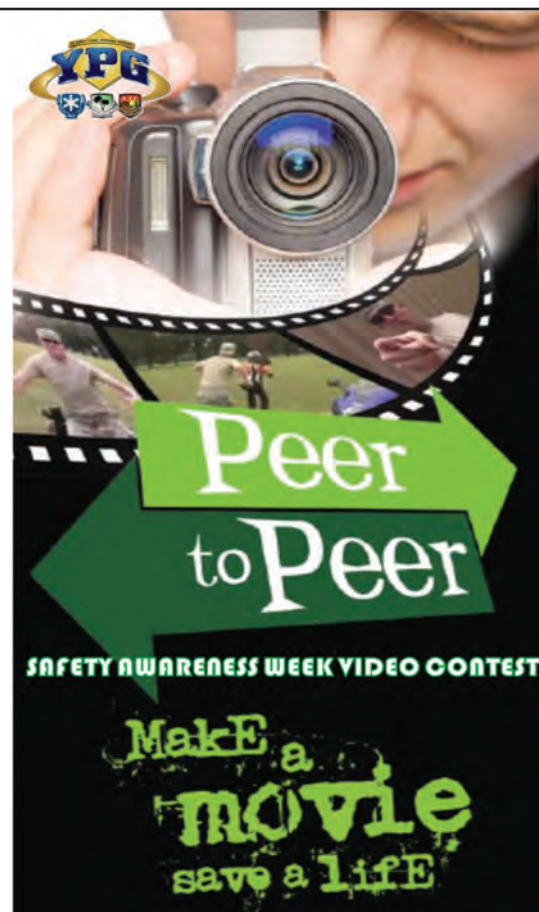
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Congratulations NCO and Soldier of the Year!



Staff Sgt. Sean Gilchrist of the Airborne Test Force and Spec. Alesha Swart of the YPG Veterinary Clinic were recognized as NCO and Soldier of the Year, respectively, by the military affairs committee of the Yuma Chamber of Commerce during the 33rd annual 4th of July Flag Raising at Yuma's Armed Forces Park. YPG's chaplain, Maj. Ronald Beltz, offered an invocation and Command Sgt. Maj. Jamathon Nelson also attended the patriotic event. (Photo by Mark Schauer)

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- 15 Aug Ft Hood Shooting Lessons Learned - Post Theater 1000 to 1130
- 20 Aug Threat Fusion Cell - EOC 1030 to 1130
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YPG employee is a driver by day and up and coming photographer

By Ana Henderson

Fredy Valenzuela has been a test vehicle operator at YPG for 10 years. His job entails driving military test vehicles, "Anything from Humvees all the way to tanks" along the long dusty roads on the vehicle test course trails. "When I got my CDL I never thought I would get to drive one of these."

Although he's dedicated his career to YPG, he recently picked up a hobby that has captured the attention of many.

"I have always had the eye when I've seen great sunsets and especially driving around in the tank, some courses we drive slowly and I have time to look around at nature and the scenery" adding "A lot of people think the desert is boring but no, it's really beautiful".

Once Valenzuela purchased a camera he started working with a mentor, who really helped him improve his skills and also explore, "We go hiking to Castle Dome, we went up to Palm Canyon. The scenery is beautiful. Especially the sunsets."

Almost immediately Valenzuela's work got noticed.

"It happened to be a photo of a donkey on a hill and the ear looked like it was a unicorn. I just put it out there with the caption 'Unicorns



Once Fredy Valenzuela purchased a camera he started working with a mentor, who really helped him improve his skills and also explore, "We go hiking to Castle Dome, we went up to Palm Canyon. The scenery is beautiful. Especially the sunsets." He captured this photo at Mittry Lake. (Photo by Fredy Valenzuela)

do exist' and people though it was funny and ABC 15 in Phoenix asked to share the picture" laughing at himself Valenzuela says, "I was excited telling my family like I won an award."

Now, sites like Visit Yuma which is Yuma's official visitor's bureau and Arizona Highways have shared his photographs.

Staff from a local medical office has commissioned Valenzuela to take photographs to display in their office because they feel his photography

captures Yuma.

These moments have helped inspire, "I just kept going out, trying to have people see what I see."



Fredy Valenzuela, snapped this photograph of the helicopter displayed outside the gates of YPG, with a beautiful Arizona sunset in the background. (Photo by Fredy Valenzuela)

To date his favorite photograph he has taken is the one of his daughter at Senator Wash, "The sunset was just red and orange, she was just looking at the sunset and she didn't even notice I was taking a picture, and I called her name and she just gave this look. That's when I really started loving photography."

His favorite photoshoot was one with this wife.

Now he's always looking around with a different perspective, "Once you start taking pictures, your eyes don't rest. I am always looking around thinking 'that would be a good picture.'"



While Fredy Valenzuela is a test vehicle operator at YPG during the week, you can find him on evenings and weekends taking scenic photographs, "Once you start taking pictures, your eyes don't rest. I am always looking around thinking 'that would be a good picture.'" (Loaned Photo)



Fredy Valenzuela, a test vehicle operator at YPG for 10 years, took this photograph of a burro on Laguna Damn Road. (Photo by Fredy Valenzuela)



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