

## Yuma Proving Ground boasts elite aerial delivery development test facilities



Yuma Proving Ground is the home to the elite Airborne Test Force jumpers; one of the Department of Defense's premier developmental airdrop test facilities. The test jumpers perform static line and Military free fall jumps. During the training pictured the soldier performed a static line jump. (Photo by Ana Henderson)

By Ana Henderson

Yuma Proving Ground (YPG) is the home to the elite Airborne Test Force (ATF) jumpers; one of the Department of Defense's (DOD) premier developmental airdrop test facilities.

YPG is home to two airborne entities, yet they both have distinctive roles and only one conducts testing missions. Chief Warrant Officer 3 Travus Heffernan, with the ATF explains it best, "We (ATF) are maintaining the future

of the aerial delivery mission while the Military Free Fall (MFF) School is training the future free fall parachutists."

The two entities are intertwined and do support each other by sharing resources when possible.

ATF's role is to provide premier training, support, and invaluable feedback to the Army, sister services, DOD, U.S. Government, commercial customers and international

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### Top officials visit YPG for SPIKE demonstration



The Honorable James McPherson, the senior official performing the duties of Undersecretary of the Army, and Gen. John M. Murray, Army Futures Command Commanding General, visited Yuma Proving Ground in late August to observe a test fire of the SPIKE air-to-ground missile for possible use with the Army's future vertical lift aircraft. "The range facilities, especially with the Air Force and Marine partners to the south, are incredibly impressive," said Murray. "Most people do not recognize the incredible importance of the Army Test and Evaluation Command's facilities. It's all about making sure that when we put a capability in Warfighter hands, it is safe and does what it is supposed to do. We absolutely couldn't do that without facilities like Yuma." YPG Col. Ross Poppenberger escorted McPherson and Murray as they met members of the YPG workforce, like Randy Ehrlich, Threat Systems Target Simulators Supervisor. (Photo by Mark Schauer)

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# Be there: small steps save lives

**By Christopher Lee, Army Substance Abuse Program Manager**

September is Suicide Prevention and Awareness Month. The theme for 2019 is Be There: Small Steps Save lives. One of the small steps people can take is to create a safer home by securing medication. The Defense Suicide Prevention Office notes that medications are the most common method of non-fatal suicide attempts. Medicines that are stored in home cabinets are highly susceptible to diversion, misuse, and abuse. Rates of prescription drug abuse in the U.S. are alarmingly high, as are the number of accidental

poisonings and overdoses due to these drugs. The Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration's National Survey on Drug Use and Health shows year after year that the majority of misused and abused prescription drugs are obtained from family and friends, including someone else's medication being stolen from the home medicine cabinet. In addition, Americans are now advised that their usual methods for disposing of unused medicines—flushing them down the toilet or throwing them in the trash—both pose potential safety and health hazards.

Keeping medications in a lock box can reduce the risks associated with potentially deadly medications. Disposing of unused and expired prescription medications is also an important step in creating a safer home. The U.S. Army YPG Branch Medical Clinic offers a place to dispose of unused/expired prescription medications with the recent installation of the Medsafe receptacle in the lobby of the clinic. Anyone can bring in unused medications within the following guidelines:

- No Illegal (Schedule I) drugs allowed.
- Leave medications in original packaging/containers when possible.
- No liquid containers more than 4 ounces. Place in a plastic baggy before depositing.
- No sharps containers, needles, syringes, batteries, aerosol spray cans, trash, medical devices, chemicals, or other hazardous materials.
- MedSafe is only available for

use when an authorized employee is present.

- If locked, please return during hours of operation. **DO NOT LEAVE MEDICATION OUTSIDE OF MEDSAFE.**



Disposing of unused and expired prescription medications is an important step in creating a safer home. The YPG Medical Clinic now offers the Medsafe receptacle to safely dispose of unused/expired prescription medications. (Photo by Ana Henderson)

## THEOUTPOST

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DEFENSE SUICIDE  
PREVENTION OFFICE





# Antiterrorism speaker shares stories of tragedy to help other installations plan for the worst

By Casey Garcia

There is probably only one person in this world who has been unlucky enough to be in the, "Right place at the wrong time not once, not twice, but three times" and that's how Antiterrorism Speaker, Ricky Rounds, describes himself. Rounds, the chief of operations for U.S. Army Garrison-Fort Hood addressed U.S. Army Yuma Proving Ground (YPG) employees and local law enforcement on the three national news making incidents that happened at Ft. Hood in Killeen, Texas, in 2009, 2011 and 2014.

Rounds shares the facts surrounding the Ft. Hood shootings and attempted bombing as a way to help other installations improve their efforts in response to an incident.

Rounds gave details of each incident as a measure to instill the message that if you see something that is suspicious, does not look or feel right, you need to say something because a simple observation and



YPG welcomed Ricky Rounds, the chief of operations for U.S. Army Garrison-Fort Hood. Rounds presented a lessons learned briefing to local law enforcement and the YPG workforce on the two active shooter incidents and a thwarted bombing on Fort Hood in Killeen, Texas. This presentation was part of the month-long Antiterrorism Awareness events. (Photo by Casey Garcia)

single report can lead to actions that may stop an attack.

Threats may be either external or internal. Although appropriate measures should be taken to protect an organization from a potential

attack, it is nearly impossible to completely prevent every incident.

YPG prepares for an incident by conducting training that simulate different incidents, the installation evaluates its actions and responses, then develops a new plan if needed, tests that new plan, tests it again, and then reset to normalcy as soon as possible because as time progresses the psychological impact get worse.

The next time a tabletop exercise is offered or a simulation training event happens with the opportunity to participate, grab hold because

your idea just may be the missing fact needed to save a life. The fact remains that nothing is predictable but if installations test accordingly, and adjust procedures due to the lessons learned and facts gathered in training, test and train again, the better prepared they will be.

YPG brings truth in testing not only to support the U.S. Army mission but to thwart terrorism as well. YPG is always ready and alert because the future of not only our employees, but the entire U.S. Army is depending on us.

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# Shootin' the Breeze

## The more things change...

By David J. Horn

Back in the early 1980's, YPG struggled through a huge generational shift in its workforce. On one hand, there were the young engineers coming out of college all excited about the new emerging computer technologies. On the other hand, there was a sizable share of the older YPG workforce that basically took the position "I have one more year until I retire, and I'm not touching that computer!" So now... its baby- boomer meet the new office millennial:

Zayden: Hey dave, my new code is up, its lit!



Me: Well Zayden, we've been processing our data the same way for many years now, and I'm very comfortable with our current

process.

Me: Wow...I thought I could really type fast with my two fingers. You can really move those thumbs!

Zayden: Ur flip phone is whack, it's time to upgrade!



Me: So Zayden. Now that you're settling in, are you looking around Yuma for a house to buy?

Zayden: i'm still on a ramen diet... ain't no way i could buy a house.



Me: So Zayden...what fun things have you been doing since you moved to Yuma?

Zayden: 24/7 u can catch me gaming...fortnite.



Me: Well, I'm throwing a party at my house next Saturday. If you can make it, send me a quick email to let me know...here's my AOL address.

Zayden: yo, that sounds pretty lit



Zayden: 4 our new project...i have tons of tabs open with new tech! lemme do more digging and then I'll holler back at u!



Me: Well, hold up there just a second. I really need you to spend a couple of days manually inputting data into this spreadsheet.

Me: Hey Zayden! During lunch, you need to check out my new car! I actually found an SUV that still has a manual transmission!

Zayden: yo...all cars have manuals...mine's in the glovebox. u really need a new iphone x! it's fire!



Zayden: So...am I ever gonna get a raise...or nah?



Me: Well Zayden, you've been a great team player during your first months here, but you still have to pay your dues. How about if we talk about your position's job security and retirement benefits? By the way, do you know how to fix the copying machine?

Me: Well, time to call it a day. Gotta get home in time for supper and to watch the 5:30 news.

Zayden: its chipotleeee! keep it real bruh!



Oh well, I really do think that the future will be bright when today's millennials are running the place. There's absolutely nothing wrong with today's young folks that 20 years won't fix.



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**Peer to Peer**

**SAFETY AWARENESS WEEK VIDEO CONTEST**

**Make a movie save a life**



## HOME

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customers. Early this year ATF tested the Embraer KC-390 aircraft for the Brazilian Airforce.

Heffernan explains, "Because we are here we are organic to the installation, we don't have to bring anyone else out here. That saves money since it avoids bringing personnel here. They know our qualifications because we are constantly training, anybody that needs airdrop testing knows that we are equipped with subject matter experts and we will accomplish the test to its fullest. Plus, we have the parachutes for cargo and personnel parachutes so they don't have to bring the parachutes, unless it is an experimental parachute undergoing testing. They just bring the equipment, we rig it and throw it out of an airplane."

The team is comprised of ATF parachute riggers/test jumpers and TRAX contractors who are also test jumpers and most previously worked as parachute riggers.

The test jumpers perform static line and Military free fall jumps.

Sgt. 1st Class Luis Feliciano,

Operations Non-Commissioned Officer explains, "As they jump out the static line elongates, the parachute pulls out the deployment bag, the deployment bag then stays with the aircraft while the parachute fully inflates."

Heffernan recognizes that this job is inherently dangerous, "Anything whether you are throwing cargo out, or in an aircraft pushing equipment out, we are on hazardous duty orders because we are jumping from a plane" adding, "For the most part, we can train all day long when it comes to the last five seconds, landing softly or hard is really dependent on the jumper."

Just this summer a member of ATF was injured during a jump, "The equipment functioned properly; it was an unfortunate error in timing and altitude that ended up having that jumper injured."

Parachute Rigger, Staff Sgt. Alonso Argueta, says, "Once they open the ramp, I am ready to go" yet admits "The only time I get nervous is when I am about to hit the ground because I don't want to get injured."

The test jumpers undergo rigorous training, the goal is to jump between 50 -100 jumps a year that being a mix of static line and Military free



The test jumpers undergo rigorous training, the goal is to jump between 50-100 jumps a year that being a mix of static line and Military free fall. Many safety procedures go into place to try and prevent any accidents. Heffernan recognizes that this job is inherently dangerous, "Anything whether you are throwing cargo out, or in an aircraft pushing equipment out, we are on hazardous duty orders because we are jumping from a plane." (Photo by Ana Henderson)

fall. Many safety procedures go into place to try and prevent any accidents.

Staff Sgt. Brandon Hunter is the drop zone (DZ) safety officer and is responsible for preparing the drop zone to receive jumpers. Also on the ground is a malfunction officer and a medic. "We come out, we survey the area, make sure there are no obstacles, and we set up the impact point with the DZ marking so the aircraft knows they are on the right track of flight. We also communicate wind readings."

Hunter communicates with the aircraft via radio communication. He relays all the information from the ground to the aircraft to ensure the aircraft has a safe and secured DZ for the jumpers and or equipment that are going to be delivered.

ATF's contribution to YPG and the Yuma Test Center is a large one. They also play a huge role in the community. When you see the YPG Color Guard you are seeing members of the ATF proudly serving their community just as proudly as they serve their country.



ATF's role is to provide premier training, support, and invaluable feedback to the Army, sister services, DOD, U.S. Government, commercial customers and international customers. (Photo by Casey Garcia)



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# New state-of-the-art mobile radar system arrives at YPG

By Ana Henderson

The current radar systems at Yuma Proving Ground (YPG) struggle to meet the advanced support requirements for current and emerging testing, that is where the Army Test and Evaluation Command (ATEC) sponsored Range Radar Replacement Program (RRRP) provides a way to satisfy YPG's future testing needs. The Army program is scheduled to replace most of the outdated instrumentation radar systems at YPG, Aberdeen Test Center, Redstone Test Center, and White Sands Test Center, "Out of the four ATEC Test Centers YPG is scheduled to receive 23 highly advanced radar systems" explains Herb Kiser, Tracking Radar Subject

Matter Expert for Yuma Test Center

That means each and every radar on YPG will be phased out, to bring in highly mobile radars that provide increased accuracies, enhanced resolution and greater track distances to meet, or exceed all foreseeable facets of radar supported testing.

YPG's aging fleet of radars have supported the test mission admirably, but even with improvements and modernization through the years YPG still struggles to address obsolescence and limitations. The systems become less effective and more costly to operate and sustain through the years. The current fleet of radars at YPG range in age from the 1960's through the early 1990's, which may seem old to some but



YPG has one radar, the FPS-16 which is part of the RRRP program but is a rebuild and not a commercial off-the-shelf system. The FPS-16 radar is self-contained and can be operated remotely via a remote console.



YPG recently acquired a brand new, commercial off-the-shelf medium range radar. The radar came to YPG as part of the Army's Range Radar Replacement Program. Eventually the program will replace all of YPG's radars.

these systems have been well cared.

The MPS-25 is YPG's oldest radar, which was originally designed to support the U.S. Space Program in the 1960's. When the program ended, the radars were repurposed as instrumentation radars at different test centers around the world, with many still supporting the U.S. Space Program.

YPG utilizes 23 different radar systems to support the high operation tempo testing conducted. These system support in all climates from the humid tropics, dry heat of Yuma's desert to the frigid regions of the Cold Region Test Center.

The systems are broken down into three categories: long range, medium range and short range systems.

The workhorse for YPG is the medium range radar, this system is placed in close proximity to the test location and along the predicted flight trajectory, and even at the impact, so flight

characteristics (such as time, space and position Information and signature phenomenology) can be extracted from the data. All this test information is vital to the end user when fielding a safe, effective and reliable system.

The ATEC RRRP program has looked at the programs at YPG, reached out to the test offices to identify future testing and developed use cases (test scenarios) to develop requirements to choose the best system to support YPG's long term test mission.

"One of our requirements was high-mobility. These systems need to be able to support a shoot and scoot type mission mentality. Where you fire, fire, fire, then you're off to another test" says Kiser.

Mobility is vital because the large amount of range space (larger than the state of Road Island), limited radar resources and volume of testing administered at





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YPG. The new RRRP radars will provide that mobility along with additional capabilities for YPG's test community.

Currently, YPG has one radar, the FPS-16 which is part of the RRRP program but is a rebuild and not a commercial off-the-shelf (COTS) system. The FPS-16 radar is self-contained and can be operated remotely via a remote console. It also does not need an instrumentation

shelter attached, it is equipped with infrared and visible cameras to allow for RF/optical tracking, security cameras and satisfies risk mitigate framework security requirements.

The first medium range COTS radar was delivered in early August and YPG is currently building the system to move into a Site Acceptance Testing phase before the radar is fielded. This is a long process where YPG tests the system



This is glimpse of what the inside of the FPS-16 radar control room. While that radar has an instrumentation truck attached with cables, it can also be used without the truck. It is self-contained and can be operated remotely via a remote console. (Photos by Ana Henderson)

accuracy, resolution, and other key capabilities to verify that the system meets or exceeds requirements identified at the start of the program.

A lot of planning and work has went into this program from the ground level all the way to ATEC to support the test community. Between the original requirements, vendor selection, development and fielding of the systems it has taken roughly five years to get to this point. All of YPG's new radars should be fielded in the next six years.

Work still to be completed is replacing the 1960's Radar Maintenance Facility. The Range has elevated this and is working

diligently to have the facility in place to support these new systems.

All systems will be new Kiser says, that's a huge deal, "We are going to have a lot of capabilities that we didn't have in the past...we are going to have systems here that will support for the next 20, 30 years or even 40 years."

Kiser also adds, while YPG will have roughly 125-million dollars in assets with these new radars, "Our biggest asset is not our equipment, it is our trained experts. Without their expertise, their ability to adapt and desire to excel it would be just another piece of expensive hardware."

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# ATEC Commanding General addresses entire workforce

By Casey Garcia

The U.S. Army Test and Evaluation Command's (ATEC) Commanding General Maj. Gen. Joel K. Tyler addressed the entire workforce located throughout the United States via a live stream on Aug. 21, 2019.

Tyler used his town hall to share his thoughts on multiple topics: priorities; changes to processes and resources; and the critical skill of communicating inside and outside of ATEC. Using tools like an annual mission guidance document and strategic plan, the ATEC workforce will have a broader understanding of these important updates and where the workforce needs to go in 5, 10, or even 20 years from now.

Under the label of "ATEC Next", the commanding general stressed the importance of adapting test and evaluation processes, identifying and developing capabilities and infrastructure, recruiting and retaining the right people, and establishing strategic partnerships.

Tyler believes it is tremendously important that the workforce continue to evolve, and he introduced a discussion on talent

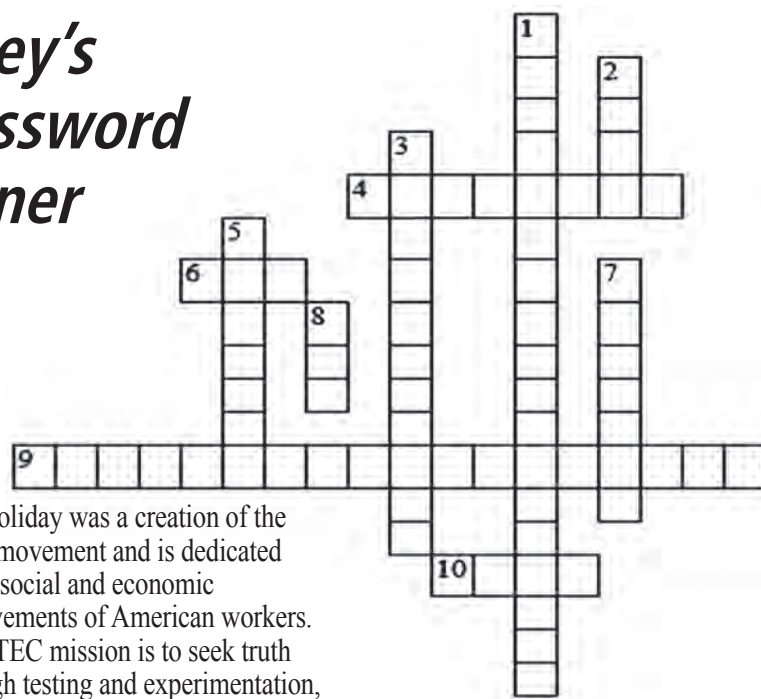


The YPG workforce gathered to watch the U.S. Army Test and Evaluation Command (ATEC) Command-wide Town hall hosted by ATEC Commander, Maj. Gen. Joel Tyler via livestream video. Tyler spoke candidly and answered questions submitted by the workforce. He praised them by saying "There is a tremendous workmanship within the organization." (Photo by Ana Henderson)

management by sharing that 40% of ATEC's people are eligible to retire in the next 10 years and that 20% are eligible right now. His guidance addressed leadership to ensure they are developing subordinates and preparing for the next level of responsibility. Tyler encouraged those interested to take advantage of developmental assignments and self-development.

Feedback from the workforce after the town hall included "This was the most substantive message from a CG in many years" and "the livestream felt like a fireside chat and that the general was not talking at us, he was talking to us."

## Casey's Crossword Corner



Across:

4. This holiday was a creation of the labor movement and is dedicated to the social and economic achievements of American workers.
6. The ATEC mission is to seek truth through testing and experimentation, is symbolized by the triangle, or fulcrum, balancing a bar and what?
9. This platform contains benefit topics like TSP, retirement, life and health insurance.
10. After World War II the War Department decided that the American Soldier must be able to live and operate in any degree of what?

Down:

1. What Army modernization effort is YPG taking part of in order to validate an operational need?
2. This Firing Range consists of 21 permanent firing positions, ammunition storage and preparation,

and environmental simulation facilities, with maximum range attainable of 75,000 meters, with 65,000 meters under tracking surveillance.

3. In its quest to arm future aircraft, YPG is hosting a demonstration to determine if it can fire what kind of non-line-of-sight (NLOS) missiles from U.S. helicopters?
5. On average in 2019, 129 Americans died by this each day.
7. What matters to the 40th Chief of Staff of the Army?
8. More than how many people worked on the ERCA Autoloader test.

KEY: 1. Future Vertical Lift, 2. KOFA, 3. Rafael Spike, 4. Labor Day, 5. Suicide, 6. Sun, 7. Winning, 8. 100, 9. Army Benefit Center, 10. Cold

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0620-0625 Opening Remarks by LTC Johnson  
0625-0629 Safety Brief by CSM Nelson  
0630 5k Walk/Run/Bike Start

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# Used motor oil disposal – what's the big deal?

By Dusti R. Rinehart,  
Environmental Specialist II

The Yuma Proving Ground (YPG)

Environmental Science Division and Housing Division are reaching out to our YPG residents and workforce to remind everyone of the importance of properly handling household hazardous waste, especially when it comes to the disposal of used motor oil and other automotive waste products. YPG residents

are also reminded that tires, motor oil, refrigerators, hazardous chemicals, and dead animals are not allowed to be disposed of in dumpsters. Residents have the individual responsibility to ensure proper disposal and handling of their household hazardous waste. Some commonly generated household hazardous wastes include motor oil, automotive products, paints, solvents, household cleaners, lawn/garden supplies, and pool chemicals.

Residents may find yourself asking, “What’s the big deal?” To answer, let’s consider the environmental factors resulting from the improper disposal of hazardous waste. The oil from a single oil change can make a million gallons of fresh water undrinkable! Used oil that is on the soil surface can be washed away to contaminate surface water, seep into the ground and contaminate our groundwater, and can evaporate and contaminate the air we breathe. Used motor oil can harm and be toxic to humans, plants, animals, and fish. It is described as being potentially harmful to human health if its inhaled or absorbed through the skin, may

irritate the respiratory tract, may cause birth defects, may cause central nervous damage, may cause cancer, and can be fatal if swallowed.

Now that you know why it is a big deal, you may be asking what you are supposed to do with that used motor oil you gathered when you changed the oil in your family’s sedan last weekend. First, remember that any of your do-it-yourself motor vehicle maintenance

should be done at the YPG Skill Center, Building 710.

Residents utilizing the Skill Center are encouraged to utilize the facilities resources for proper disposal of their used automotive oils/wastes. For the convenience of its residents, the YPG Skill Center is open Wednesday – Friday 8:30 a.m. -4:30 p.m. and Saturday – Sunday 10 a.m. -6 p.m.

Another available option is through the City of Yuma’s Household Hazardous Waste Collection Program. This program provides a free and safe way to dispose of household hazardous waste products. The City of Yuma offers this program quarterly and has scheduled its next event to be held on 12 Oct. 2019. Keep your eye out for newsletter and housing grams to alert you of these opportunities throughout the year. For additional details on the City of Yuma’s Household Hazardous Waste Collection Program call (928) 373-4504.

We should all be concerned with what happens to our hazardous wastes, if not for the protection and sustainment of our environment, then for the protection of our health and that of those we care for.



## YPG leaders meet with Senator Sinema



YPG Commander Col. Ross Poppenberger and Command Sgt. Maj. Jamathon Nelson met with U.S. Senator Kyrsten Sinema. Poppenberger discussed YPG’s position at the forefront of testing for Army modernization efforts and the current state of U.S. Highway 95, which has the highest traffic volume of any two-lane road in Arizona. (Photo by Mark Schauer)

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