

Future Vertical Lift testing in progress at YPG



The first in what is likely to be many tests related to the Future Vertical Lift Cross Functional Teams, occurred at YPG in late August with a demonstration of the SPIKE non-line-of-sight (NLOS) air-to-ground missile. (U.S. Army Photo)

By Mark Schauer

It has become well-known that Yuma Proving Ground (YPG) testing actively supports six of the Army Futures Command's Cross Functional Teams (CFTs) building the Army's future force.

The first in what is likely to be many tests related to the Future Vertical Lift CFT, which seeks

to develop the next generation of vertical takeoff and lift aircraft, occurred at YPG in late August with a demonstration of the SPIKE non-line-of-sight (NLOS) air-to-ground missile, a currently-fielded Israeli weapon with approximately four times as much range as the Hellfire or Joint Air Ground Missile currently used by American forces.

"The missile we are firing gives the opportunity for the Army to have more reach, more standoff, more lethality that it has had in the past to address our near-peer threats," said Col. Matthew Isaacson, Future Vertical Lift CFT lead. "We use these demonstrations to inform our requirements and to ensure that

we're not writing a requirement for something that is unrealistic."

The family of SPIKE NLOS missiles have been utilized by the Israeli Defense Forces for several decades. Featuring manual and automatic modes, it achieves

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9-11 flag raising ceremony



The Yuma Proving Ground (YPG) community reflected on the lives lost during the 2001 September 11 terrorist attacks. Officers from the YPG Protection Division and members of the Fire Protection and Prevention Division performed a flag raising and half mast flag ceremony as the community observed. (Photo by Ana Henderson)

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YPG commemorates Sept. 11th



The YPG Community paid their respects to the thousands of people who lost their lives in the Sept. 11, 2001 terrorist attacks. Yuma Test Center Commander Lt. Col. Alicia Johnson provided keynote remarks at the solemn ceremony. "These past 18 years, our men and women in the United States military have borne a heavy burden defending our country against terrorists who still strive to inflict the same-or worse-death and destruction on our nation again," said Johnson. "In that time, thousands of Soldiers, Sailors, Marines, and Airmen have made the ultimate sacrifice to defend our nation and values from those who seek to destroy them. But thousands more of our troops were saved from death and injury by the work done by our dedicated employees here at Yuma Proving Ground."



YPG Command Sgt. Maj. Jamathon Nelson spoke with members of the Yuma Sunrise Rotary Club to reflect on the impact of the September 11th attacks. Nelson urged the attendees not to forget that American forces are still deployed in Southwest Asia, and to remember the spirit of unity and determination the country experienced in the wake of the attack. "To me, September 12th was one of the greatest days in American history. We really came together and were a strong nation." (Photo by Mark Schauer)

THE OUTPOST

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Antiterrorism Awareness Month wraps up

By Casey Garcia

Yuma Sector Border Patrol agents briefed the Yuma Proving Ground (YPG) workforce as the final presentation of the month long Antiterrorism Awareness events.

Special Operations Supervisor, Vincent J. Dulesky, and Border Patrol Agent, Jose J. Garibay III, spoke about border security and how it impacts Yuma residents including YPG employees.

The Yuma Sector Border Patrol's area of responsibility is comprised of approximately 181,670 square miles. They secure 126 miles of United States (U.S.) Border from the Imperial Sand Dunes in California to the Yuma-Pima County line. This area consists of vast open deserts, rocky mountain ranges, large drifting sand dunes and the Colorado River.

One of the Border Patrol's missions is preventing terrorists and terrorists' weapons, including weapons of mass destruction, from entering the U.S.

In 2018, Yuma Sector apprehended 26, 244 illegal entrants and is on pace to double that in 2019. The U.S. Border Patrol continues its efforts to control our nation's borders by adhering to a three prong effort.

First, by ensuring our infrastructure is updated and free from hazards. Second, effective and efficient use of manpower. Finally, using new and specialized technology in order to assist agents in fulfilling the mission smartly.

Agents played a video that showed how the border security mission quickly escalates into a humanitarian mission when men and women jump over border security walls or when children are thrown over causing broken bones. Agents go from providing security, to a watch officer for the injured which takes them away from their post.

Pat Franklin, Flight Services Division Chief asked, "What advice could you give us if we are out hunting or off-roading and come across something that seems out of the norm?" Agent Garibay answered "You should always be aware of your surroundings but give us a call, tell us what you see, and go the other direction."

The antiterrorism program iwatch motto, 'If you see something, say something' is never more apparent. Your observation could lead to the actions that may stop a terrorist attack.



Yuma Sector Special Operations Supervisor, Vincent J. Dulesky, and Border Patrol Agent, Jose J. Garibay III, spoke about border security and how it impacts Yuma residents including YPG employees. The brief was the final presentation of the month long Antiterrorism Awareness events. (Photo by Casey Garcia)

HARP of ages



YPG Heritage Center curator Bill Heidner recently sat down with filmmakers creating a documentary entitled "The Tyranny of the Rocket Equation" to discuss YPG's history testing the High Altitude Research Project (HARP) gun in the 1960s. A test shot of the HARP gun at YPG in November 1966 set the world records for highest artillery shot and largest artillery propellant load. (Photos by Mark Schauer)



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Casey's Crossword Corner

Across:

5. This release is required before releasing photos, video or documents to the public.
6. This caused reduced water flow and a nearly limitless landscape of backwater channels and hidden lakes upstream.
7. The Army Civilian Corps Creed states, "I will always support the _____."
8. The team is comprised of parachute riggers/test jumpers and TRAX contractors who are also test jumpers and most previously worked as parachute riggers.

Down:

1. This tool is a confidential, self-assessment tool that tells you how to improve your overall health and wellbeing. By knowing yourself, you can stay emotionally and psychologically strong for yourself and your family.
2. The Army is leading a multi-service initiative focused on enhancing

- _____ dominance with manned, unmanned, and optionally-manned variants that can survive the modern and future battlefield.
3. _____ will modernize the Army for the future; integrate the future operational environment, develop and deliver future force requirements, design future force organizations and deliver materiel capabilities.
4. This center features dense, triple canopied old-growth forests that block sunlight and retain moisture from frequent, heavy rainfalls, keeping the temperature warm.

KEY: 1. Global Assessment Tool 2. Future Vertical Lift 3. AFC 4. TRTC 5. Public Release Request 6. Damming 7. Mission 8. ATF

September is food safety awareness month

Every year, an estimated 48 million Americans get sick from foodborne illnesses, resulting in 3,000 deaths and nearly 130,000 hospitalizations, according to the Centers for Disease Control. The Defense Commissary Agency along with other organizations are increasing awareness to help prevent foodborne illnesses.

Clean

- Wash hands with warm soapy water for 20 seconds before and after handling raw meat, poultry or seafood.
- Wash utensils, cutting boards, dishes and countertops with hot soapy water after preparing each food item and before you go on to prepare the next item.
- Food contact surfaces can be sanitized with a freshly made solution of one tablespoon of unscented, liquid chlorine bleach in one gallon of water.

Separate

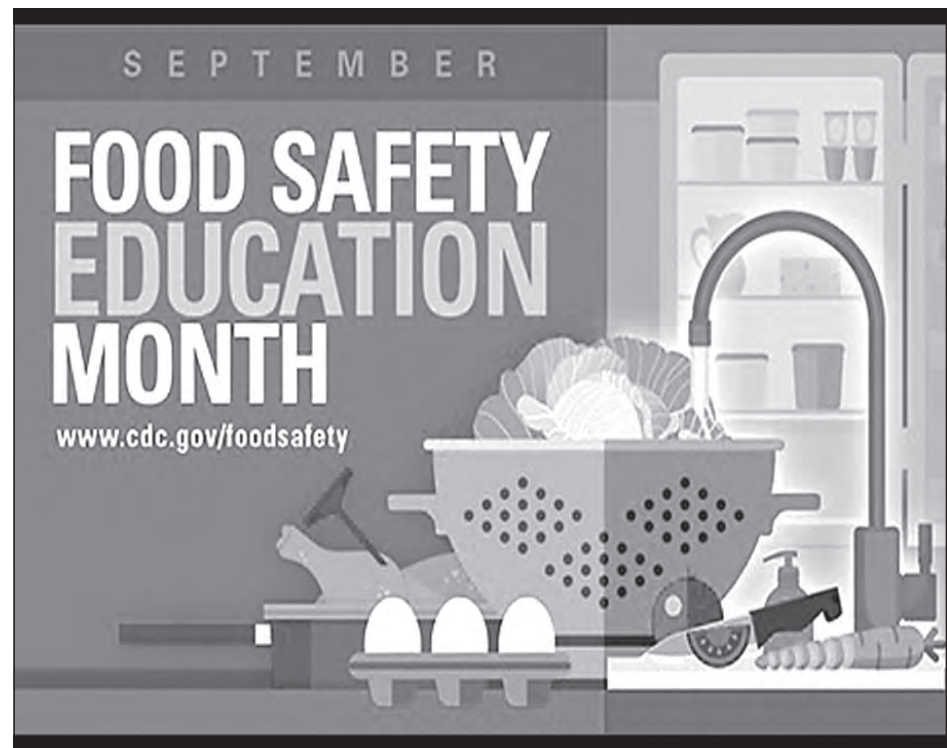
- Separate raw meat, poultry and seafood from other foods in your grocery shopping cart and in your refrigerator.
- If possible, use one cutting board for fresh produce and a separate one for raw meat, poultry and seafood.
- Never place cooked food or foods that are eaten raw, like salads, on a plate that previously held raw meat, poultry or seafood.

Cook

- Cook poultry to a safe minimum internal temperature of 165 °F as measured with a food thermometer.

Chill

- Chill food promptly and properly. Refrigerate or freeze perishables, prepared foods and leftovers within two hours (or one hour if temperatures are above 90 °F).



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TESTING

FROM PAGE 1

optimal range in automatic, but can be successfully utilized in degraded navigation environments while being manually-guided. For the first demonstration, the testers fired the Spike from an AH-64E Apache helicopter hovering 200 feet above the highest obstacle in a complex terrain environment at a mock-up of a SA-15 vehicle 28.5 kilometers away. A key part of the demonstration involved intentionally losing the guidance data-link to the missile just prior to impact to determine whether it would still strike its target: it did so in a fiery explosion.

Among the bevy of officials who travelled to YPG to witness

the test were the Honorable James McPherson, the senior official performing the duties of Undersecretary of the Army, and Gen. John Murray, Commanding General of Army Futures Command. Murray is the first four star general to visit the proving ground since then-Vice Chief of the Army Gen. Peter Chiarelli came to observe a test of the Precision Guidance Kit artillery fuse in 2011.

"This is important to senior leadership and we will attend these demonstrations to exhibit that importance," said McPherson. "It's important that the people put developing the next tip of the spear know that the folks in the Pentagon are truly interested, truly focused, and want to help them get their job done."

Murray pointed out that the

intent of the testing was more about demonstrating capabilities rather than committing to a particular missile.

"One of the things Army Futures Command is trying very hard to do is prove out a technology before we pursue it," said Murray. "This was an attempt to prove that the technology is mature enough and that we can use it operationally. We're testing multiple scenarios where this capability could be of value."

Murray left the proving ground impressed by the professionalism of the workforce and the robust test infrastructure and vast range space that YPG boasts.

"The range facilities, especially with the Air Force and Marine



"The missile we are firing gives the opportunity for the Army to have more reach, more standoff, more lethality that it has had in the past to address our near-peer threats," said Col. Matthew Isaacson, Future Vertical Lift CFT lead. (Photo by Mark Schauer)

Corps partners to the south, are incredibly impressive," said Murray. "Most people do not recognize the incredible importance of the Army Test and Evaluation Command facilities. It's all about making sure that when we put a capability in warfighter hands it's safe and we know what it is going to do—we absolutely couldn't do this without facilities like Yuma."



Escorted by YPG Commander Col. Ross Poppenberger (right), Gen. John M. Murray (second from right), Army Futures Command Commanding General, and the Honorable James McPherson (third from right), the senior official performing the duties of Undersecretary of the Army, 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. (Photo by Mark Schauer)

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MICLIC testing restarts after a five year break at Yuma Proving Ground

By Ana Henderson

"It makes your teeth rattle."

That's how Caleb Hughes, Large Caliber Engineer for Project Manager, Ammunition which procures conventional ammunition for the Marine Corps describes the power of the explosion of the Mine Clearing Line Charge (MICLIC).

The MICLIC has been in use since the 1960s, "It's a legacy item. It's been around since the Vietnam war, it was mainly used by the Marines and secondary by the Army" explains Gregory Tremarco, Project Officer for MICLIC with Joint Program Executive Office Armaments and Ammunition.

The MICLIC has a simple design that causes a big bang. It is made up of 1,750 pounds of C-4 that are bundled in a bricklike configuration. Those packages are then tied to a 1-inch nylon rope, wrapped with detcord and coiled inside a metal tub like container. The first step of the detonation process is to attach a 5-inch rocket to the arresting cable. The rocket is then fired from the safety of an armored vehicle.

When that rocket is fired it flies at

about a 45-degree angle and pulls the arresting cable with the C-4 attached across the target area. Almost like casting a fishing line. Once the charge containing the C-4 is laid flat across the ground the operator can detonate the clearing charge by initiating a blasting machine.

"Its intended purpose is to clear an enemy minefield or anywhere where they might have ordnance so the soldier can spearhead and attack the enemy" explains Tremarco. The MICLIC was used a lot in the war in Iraq to help our soldiers get into Bagdad. It can clear a path of about 17 feet wide and about 350 feet which is about the length of a football field enough space for a convoy to pass through if needed.

Due to an abundant supply testing was halted for about five years. Now production has restarted and so has testing at Yuma Proving Ground (YPG). YPG recently conducted the First Article Testing (FAT) of MICLICs manufactured by American Ordnance. YPG is testing the first three samples that came out of the production line. If they meet the standards then American



The first step of the detonation process is to attach a 5-inch rocket to the arresting cable. The rocket is then fired from the safety of an armored vehicle. (Photo by Ana Henderson)

Ordnance will be approved to continue manufacturing.

These will be supplied to the Marines and the Army.

Lead expert Robert Archibale with the Munitions and Weapons Branch, has been testing MICLIC at YPG for 15-years. He also has firsthand experience with MICLIC while

serving in the Marines, "I shot over 12 of them breaching the minefields on the first day of the ground war in Desert Storm as we crossed into Kuwait from Saudi Arabia."

Now retired from the Marines, Archibale is in charge of making sure the MICLICs going into the field are safe for the Warfighter by



When that rocket is fired it flies at about a 45-degree angle and pulls the arresting cable with the C-4 attached across the target area. Almost like casting a fishing line. Once the charge containing the C-4 is laid flat across the ground the operator can detonate the clearing charge by initiating a blasting machine. (U.S. Army photo)



"It makes your teeth rattle." That's how Caleb Hughes, Large Caliber Engineer for Project Manager, Ammunition which procures conventional ammunition for the Marine Corps describes the power of the explosion of the Mine Clearing Line Charge (MICLIC). (U.S. Army photo)



Oscar Ricardo Ramirez, Aircraft Weapons Technician hands Robert Archibale, MICLIC Lead expert with the Munitions and Weapons Branch, the MICLIC fuze. Archibale checks the fuze as part of the detailed inspection process. (Photo by Ana Henderson)

thoroughly inspecting them at YPG.

“Before firing the FAT samples, we are required to conduct an inspection of each unit. We conduct continuity checks of the electrical firing system and the power panel on the MICLIC container. We ensure that the fuze is properly packaged, and that the Mechanical Arming Pin is in the correct position.”

Adding, “I also check the overall condition of the shipping container and note any discrepancies.

Although the rocket motor is not under test, we check several inspection points to ensure it will function properly.”

After testing is complete and the U.S. Army signs off, it should only take a couple of months until full production is underway.

Testing is not over, once the lots are manufactured a representative sample will come back to YPG for testing every few months for Acceptance Testing.



The MICLIC has a simple design that causes a big bang. It is made up of 1,750 pounds of C-4 that are bundled in a bricklike configuration. Those packages are then tied to a 1-inch nylon rope, wrapped with detcord and coiled inside a metal tub like container. (Photo by Ana Henderson)

Solider Spotlight



Staff Sgt. Brandon Hunter is a proud member of the Airborne Test Force, stationed at Yuma Proving Ground. He works as a Test Parachutist/Parachute Rigger and serves as the drop zone safety officer which means he is responsible for preparing the drop zone to receive jumpers. In this spare time Hunter stays busy by coaching freshman football at Gila Ridge High School, spending time with his 13-year old twins, four wheeling with his Dad and fishing. He is also currently attending college. (Photos by Casey Garcia & Ana Henderson)

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Marines train at YPG to complete mission essential tasks

By Casey Garcia

Marines from the Marine Wing Support Squadron (MWSS)-371 recently conducted training aboard the Yuma Proving Ground (YPG) installation, Commanding Officer of MWSS-371, Lt. Col. Marcus Rossi explains, "YPG provides excellent training ranges for what our squadron needs to do. We have war type missions to provide a whole variety of airfield support services in expeditionary air field sites."

During the one week training about 120 Marines from two companies conducted mission which included, live fire training, convoy training, setting up a deception forward

arming and refueling point. The Marines performed horizontal construction, area clearance, demolition training damage repair and even constructed a helicopter landing zone that YPG can now utilize.

Yuma Test Center (YTC) Commander Lt. Col. Alicia Johnson, gave the Marines a token of appreciation for their work on the landing zone in the form of a Commander's coin saying, "YTC greatly appreciates the dedication and professionalism displayed by the Marine Wing Support Squadron-371."

The missions performed by the



The Marines performed horizontal construction, area clearance, demolition training damage repair and even constructed a helicopter landing zone that YPG can now utilize. (Photo by Casey Garcia)



Yuma Test Center Commander Lt. Col. Alicia Johnson presented the Marines from MWSS-371 with a Certificate of Appreciation and a Commander's coin for their hard work. (Photos by Ana Henderson)



Marines were part of the Marines' Mission Essential Tasks List (METLs). METLs are the list of critically essential tasks that directly enables the execution of the organizational mission. METLs enable Rossi and Sgt. Maj. Nelson J. Hammer to measure operational mission readiness conducted to specific conditions and standards in compliance with Department of Defense standards.

The collaboration between YPG

and MWSS-371 has enhanced the combat operations skills of these Marines and in turn enhanced YPG's infrastructure, Rossi says, "We appreciate the opportunity to train out here on the Army base. It was a tremendous opportunity for our Marines."

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Post Library unveils its new makerspace game and craft rooms

By Ana Henderson

The Million Dollar Makeover at Yuma Proving Ground's (YPG) Library is now complete. On Sept. 9, YPG leadership along with community members gathered for the ribbon cutting ceremony.

Afterwards they toured the newest rooms; one is the gaming room which is equipped with gaming chairs and gaming consoles including PS4, Nintendo Switch, Xbox 1, three arcade games and new board games. There are 150 games for the gaming consoles, a ton of board games and four flat screen televisions.

The other side of the room, which is sectioned off with a partition, is the makerspace. There is a sitting area for those looking for a comfortable place to knit or crochet, a large table making a great workspace for those looking to use the four sewing machines or the scan and cut machine. Painting canvas are available as well as woodworking and painting supplies.

It was a very special day for Supervisory Library Technician, Malissa Donato, "It exhilarating, I am completely excited" adding "We have had so many people waiting to come in and be able to utilize the rooms."



ABOVE: The gaming room is equipped with gaming chairs and gaming consoles including PS4, Nintendo Switch, Xbox 1, three arcade games and new board games. The other side of the room is the makerspace. There is a sitting area for those looking for a place to knit or crochet, a large table making a great workspace. BELOW: After the ceremony community members mingled, snacked on hors d'oeuvres and enjoyed the delicious cakes. (Photos by Ana Henderson)

Donato submitted a proposal for the grant last summer and was awarded the funds in late 2018. The library received a total of \$70,000: \$49,000 for library modernization from the Million Dollar Makeover Grant and \$41,000 from the Makerspace Grant. Donato gave a special thank you to Bea Brimmage and Daniel Hernandez saying "I could have not done this without them. Both of them have been instrumental in us getting the rooms done."

Completed earlier this year is the children's room, where Donato selected shorter shelving to make books more accessible for children

and children's books that came with matching puppets to make story time livelier. The teen room now has more space for arts and crafts and other collaborations plus, tables equipped with an area to plug in computers.

These amenities are available to anyone with base access.



Yuma Proving Ground Commander Col. Ross Poppenberger, Supervisory Library Technician, Malissa Donato, Bea Brimmage and Garrison Manger, Gordon Rogers along with community members gathered for the ribbon cutting ceremony.

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